

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

Devotion (2022) is a movie about the racial discrimination against African Americans in the U.S. military in the 1950s. It tells the story of Jesse Brown, the first black U.S. Navy aviator, who faces various forms of racial discrimination in an era of deep-rooted racism in America. Through Jesse's determined character and challenges he encounters, the movie portrays his struggle and resilience against prejudice and systemic injustice. The diverse settings, from military bases to social arenas, underscore the broader social and historical context. *Devotion* highlights the importance of courage and spirit in confronting and overcoming discrimination.

This research examines the intrinsic elements of the film *Devotion* (2022), focusing on theme, characters and characterizations, plot, and setting. The central theme of the movie revolves around racial discrimination in military life, highlighting the struggles and resilience of African-American aviators in the 1950s. Jesse Brown, the main character, faces pervasive racial discrimination, but with the support of his fellow aviators, especially Tom Hudner, he manages to persevere and achieve his goals. The movie's plot not only explores these personal and social conflicts, but also recounts the broader conflicts facing America during the Korean War, providing a rich backdrop for character development and the unfolding of the narrative.

This research delves deeply into the racial discrimination that Jesse Brown faces within the American military during this era. The discrimination manifests itself in a variety of ways, from unequal qualifications imposed by military

leadership, to the skeptical attitudes of fellow aviators who doubt his abilities simply because of his race, to the racial prejudices exhibited by Jesse Brown's neighbors. The existence of discrimination reflects not only the personal challenges Brown faced, but also the broader racial injustices within both military institutions and society at the time.

Although the President of the United States at the time issued directives to desegregate the military, implementation proved slow and incomplete. This indicates that formal efforts to end discrimination were often stalled by persistent discriminatory cultures and practices, which affected the experiences of individuals like Jesse Brown in their struggle for rights and equality that were rightfully theirs. Thus, Jesse Brown's experience in confronting discrimination serves as a poignant reminder of the challenges faced by many minority members in advocating for their rights within the military and society at that time.

Jesse Brown faced significant challenges due to racism, which led him to actively resist it. Throughout the movie, he repeatedly encountered discrimination that caused him to feel downcast. However, with the support of his fellow aviators, he courageously confronted and fought against this discrimination. Jesse's resistance took the form of staying dedicated to his military career, ultimately becoming one of the top Navy pilots in the U.S. He chose to disregard hurtful remarks aimed at him and questions during interviews about his racial background. Jesse's actions reflect a deliberate effort to pave the way for future generations in the military, ensuring they receive fair treatment regardless of their race. His story serves as an inspiring example of perseverance and determination in the face of

adversity.

In addition, the narrative of Jesse Brown in *Devotion* (2022) serves as a compelling illustration of the enduring challenge of racial discrimination and inequality in American history. His narrative illuminates the challenges faced by African Americans in the military and resonates with broader themes of perseverance and hope in the face of adversity. By confronting and overcoming discrimination, Jesse Brown's journey becomes a symbol of courage and resilience, inspiring future generations. As we reflect on his experiences, we are reminded of the ongoing need to strive for justice, equity, and inclusivity in all facets of society, ensuring that the sacrifices and achievements of individuals like Jesse Brown continue to shape a more just and equal future.