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How Prejudice Can Effect Everyone

1959 was a time where segregation was still happening and society's views were harsh to people who were different. *Say Goodbye For Now* by Catherine Ryan Hyde follows through the eyes of two of the four outcasts. One is a neglected child, another is a woman who is a professional doctor, and the other two are African American father and son. Dr. Lucy and Calvin fell in love but could not be together because of society's prejudice against them. Hyde writes intricately describing how children act by the judgment of society, the cruelty of opinions can make outcasts, and how one inspirational story can make others brave to stand against the pressure.

In the beginning, Pete, who is a young neglected white child, was walking with his friend. He found an injured wolf-dog hybrid and wanted to get it to help, but his other white friend abandons him. Pete was soon found by Justin another boy his age and was African American. Pete did not care for the color of his newfound friend and that surprised Justin. Justin thought it was all an act, "You know, you can just say if you don't want to be friends" (32), because many kids their age would never talk to an African American. Even his friend who he was walking with stopped being friends with Pete due to the friendship between Pete and Justin by saying "I'm going to forget I ever met you, Pete" Jack said in a strained whisper" (202). Even with that situation, it was clear that Pete wanted Justin to be his friend, "I don't care about that. I'm kind of picky about friends. I think maybe more than I used to be. But not about stuff like that" (33). Unfortunately with this newfound friendship, it brings attention to Pete's father. His

father was a cruel individual who fakes that he is injured badly that he cannot work. Pete was given a beating after another white individual saw who Pete was talking to but Pete did the opposite of what his father was trying to teach him. Through it, Pete did not fully understand the hatred people have towards Justin and his father. All he knew his friendship with Justin was rare and perfect and race did not matter to both of them.

Although the prejudice views against race and gender mattered to the people in town. It is simply due to the history of both women and African Americans. For those who disagree with what the majority believe in they automatically become an outcast. Dr. Lucy faces her issue of being a doctor and a woman which instantly puts her in a difficult spot of not being respected by any of her coworkers. It was to the point where she only talks to her clients, "I'm one of the few people I know who've met her. "People talk about her, but most people haven't talked to her" (28). Calvin and Justin were always looked down on due to their skin color. It was hard on Calvin who went to college and obtained a bachelor's degree but is working with high school dropouts. In their town, they face racism even to the point where Justin is injured badly. Pete is also known as an outcast because he is not only neglected by his father but became good friends with the other three. In many cases, people who are left out form a tight bond and dislikes towards the people who put them in that position.

Coming together not only makes each individual stronger and braver than they were alone. The characters soon realize that and become closer together as they face the challenges and violence from the town. After the incident with Justin, Dr. Lucy and Calvin fell in love but knew that they were not going to be able to be together. That is the reason why the book is called that way because they are saying goodbye for now and hoping to see each other in the future.

They started following the case of *Love vs Virginia* and knew that they were not the only ones who fell in love. This inspired not only the couple but Justin and Pete. Before the Bell's left Justin and Pete both did a special handshake wherein their eyes, became blood brothers, "Okay, now tell me the truth," she said as they drove. "Why would you and Justin both have a hurt thumb exactly the same time?" [...] "We did blood brothers" (280).

Throughout the entire book, Hyde writes her characters relatable and developed her characters in a way that people would feel for them. The four outcasts all share a strong bond with each other and can be considered a family. They all managed to keep hope alive from seeing how children acted, people judging them, and finally standing together to face racism. It is clear the whole book revolved around racism and everyone was affected by it whether it was directly or indirectly. The characters know that this is not the end of people's judgment towards them but it may create a spark of change.