



Miriam Lies

Film Study Guide

Director: Natalia Cabral and Oriol Estrada

Spain | Fiction | Spanish | 2018 | 90 Minutes

Synopsis: Reticent and respectful Miriam is a biracial teen pushed to assimilate into white, wealthy society by her ambitious mother. With her Quinceañera looming, she is hoping that a boy she met online will be her date. But she panics when she realizes he isn't who she thinks he is. Confronted with her own biases, Miriam must make what feels like an impossible choice in this affecting portrait of prejudice.

Post-Screening Discussion Questions

1. Miriam's mother, Tere, constantly nitpicks Miriam's appearance. Wow do you think this affects Miriam's sense of self over the course of the film? Her relationship with Jean-Louise? Her friendship with Jennifer?
2. It is explained throughout the movie that Tere's father did not allow her to get married to Miriam's father. In what ways do her frustrations and shame about that relationship get pushed onto Miriam?

3. Tere is fascinated with things from other countries such as dresses and expensive furniture. She quickly latches onto the assumption that Jean-Louise is from France. Where do you think these obsessions come from?
4. In one scene, Miriam's father dances with her, telling her, "When I would hear music as a kid. I would let myself go." How is this different from the way Tere teaches her to dance? What does this say about her parents as people?
5. Subtext is a technique often used in film. It is the hidden meaning found underneath casual conversation or comments. How is Tere's comments on Mariam's hair an example of subtext? Can you name any other examples?
6. The night before the party, Miriam decides to invite Jean-Louise. What do you think causes her to change her mind?
7. Miriam and Jennifer's mothers often compete as they prepare for the party for the best decorations, dresses, and events. Do you see any of the girls pick up this behavior in their own conversations? Why or why not?
8. Which character did you relate to the most? Were there any that frustrated or angered you? If so, why?
9. Many questions are left unanswered at the end of the film. What do you think the filmmaker is trying to say in the last scene, when Jennifer and Miriam sing together?