

Selected quotations from the play *Seven Black Men*

by Phillip W. Weiss

I'm just a regular guy from Brooklyn, street smart and tough.

I'm also the world's greatest lover.

You know you got off only because the jury was all black and the judge was a joke.

He had the best lawyers money could buy. I had some court appointed putz.

I've had fifty women accuse me of raping them, and all of them are white.

I became a star because of my talent, not because of my skin color.

Talk plainly. What are you trying to say?

You wanted to play the Uncle Tom? Fine. I'm not you.

I wanted to make money and made a ton of it.

You fought amateur. I went up against the best in the world

You see, you understand what I'm talking about. That shows that you're cool.

I'll tell you, being famous can be rough. You really have to watch yourself.

Isn't becoming rich and famous the American dream?

I was never much for talking. I let my fists do the talking for me.

You had it all and you blew it, badly. You had the money, the fame, the notoriety, and you flushed it down the toilet.

Black men are supermen. We can do any damn thing we want.

If I hadn't brought it up, I'd be just another Uncle Tom nigger doing the bidding of the white man, and I wasn't going to have any of that, you hear?

So, what you're saying is that if you hush up and put on that water melon smile, everything will be cool.

Politics of race. I heard that before, but to tell you the truth, I'm not sure what it means.

Blackness is more than just skin color. It is an attitude, a way of looking at things, and a way of life.

I'm not saying that golf doesn't take skill. But let's see you play golf while somebody's giving you a right upper cut to the jaw.

The anxieties and tensions that we black men are under have a lethal effect on our health.

I'm a professional entertainer and I'm not expendable.

I want to be judged as a man, not as a "black" man.

We are the victims! We are the ones who were kidnapped, raped, put down, enslaved, mocked, berated, and de-culturized.

I was too busy enjoying life to follow your case.

I paid my dues, so I have the right to enjoy the fruits of my labor.

You never heard of any women complaining about me, have you? So, I must be doing something right.

Whores, prostitutes, call girls, dancers, escorts, actresses, call them what you want: they flaunt what they have, and we notice it. At least I do. I'm a man.

Are we going to start demonizing women now? Remember, guys, we all have mothers.

You think I want you calling my sister a whore?

Maybe you weren't the greatest son.

Not all blacks are failures. What about all the black entertainers, doctors, lawyers and teachers?

Bunch of pussies. Sucking up to the white boss.

Can't you be middle class without being a sell out?

In fact, all of you are phonies, acting like you're so prim and proper, as if you're white.

If by roots, you mean where we're from, that's something no one ever forgets.

What's the point of going down memory lane? We all moved on.

Whenever I hear that word culture I grit my teeth. It's such a loaded word.

You think you're someone a parent could be proud of?

There was no way I was going to become a minister. I was too busy playing football.

But for me, Christianity, with all its talk of salvation and what not, offered no answer to the question of how a black man can make his way through life and keep his identity and sanity and survive in a white dominated racist society.

Have we lost our ways?

Don't get sappy on me now. Save that crap for the movies.

Look, my parents were church going people and what did it do for them?

I never liked boxing. But I was good at it and so I went in that direction.

What a sad, empty life you have led.

I wish I could say the same for you, but if I did I'd be lying, and I'm not a liar. It goes against my religion.

Good for you. But who cares?

I don't mind preachers preaching at us, just as long as they keep the sermons short. There's nothing worse than preacher going on and on about how we much we need the Lord.

I am so grateful that I'm alive now and not, let's say, 75 years ago. Back then, forget it. I would have been a nobody.

But the country was denied the opportunity to see the best players in the world, which made the sports they were paying to watch a sham.

It just shows that anyone can be a philosopher.

What are you saying? That my going to college was a fraud?

In fact, your very presence here deeply annoys me. I wish you would leave.

I don't even know why he's here. You got black skin but there's just nothing about you that's black.

I too am black. I'm as black as anyone here.

So what about the country. We, as black people, were put down and kept down, period.

Some savior. As soon as you changed your name the country wanted to hang you.

I once heard this pro wrestler say, "You live by the buck and you die by the buck." To me, those were profound words of wisdom.

I used to believe that nothing could hurt me.

Remember, golf is played outdoors, not in a stadium.

I tried playing some golf, and I have to admit, it's a lot harder than it looks.

Blacks work dangerous jobs, do all kinds of hard physical labor, and as a result have a shorter life span.

I don't know what I'd do if I saw my wife, or even my ex-wife, fucking around with another man. I might freak out too.

How would you feel if you saw me with your wife?

Who would be crazy enough to mug a big guy like you?

**But we gotta tone
our rhetoric down.
Stop acting hard
Which makes whites frown.
It makes them
Feel they have the need
to call the cops
and make us bleed.**

**The modern black
is not a crook,
that's racist junk
in any book.**

**We're tased,
we're shot and
even slain
when we're unarmed
and caused no pain.**

I hate that term black on black crime. Crime is crime, period. It's not black, white, yellow, brown or any other color, except maybe red, for blood. And that's the one color that's the same for every human being on this planet. And when we get cut and bleed, it's as if the whole human race has been cut.

Well said, my man. Inside you is the poet.

I had some legal issues that landed me in jail.

I have nothing to say to you or to anyone who thinks I'm a liar.

I had great moves, but more importantly I played on a great team.

The players today don't know how good they have it, especially the black players who want to rock the boat.

I was a black man who refused to knuckle under.

I did not want to be just another black man consumed by anger, so I hired a public relations guy who happened to be white.

I still feel twinges of rage, but now I show it with a smile.

In this country, anything is possible, even for a black man, as long as he maintains self-control and projects a friendly image.

Oppression is nothing to cheer about.

The Jews got compensation. The Japanese got compensation. So, the blacks should get compensation too.

The divisive effects of our slave past still haunts us today.

I'm vilified, demonized, and publicly maligned, but don't forget, I also made people laugh, not at me but with me. For a black man, that's no small accomplishment.