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Intersectional Feminism and Diverse Perspectives in Contemporary Romance

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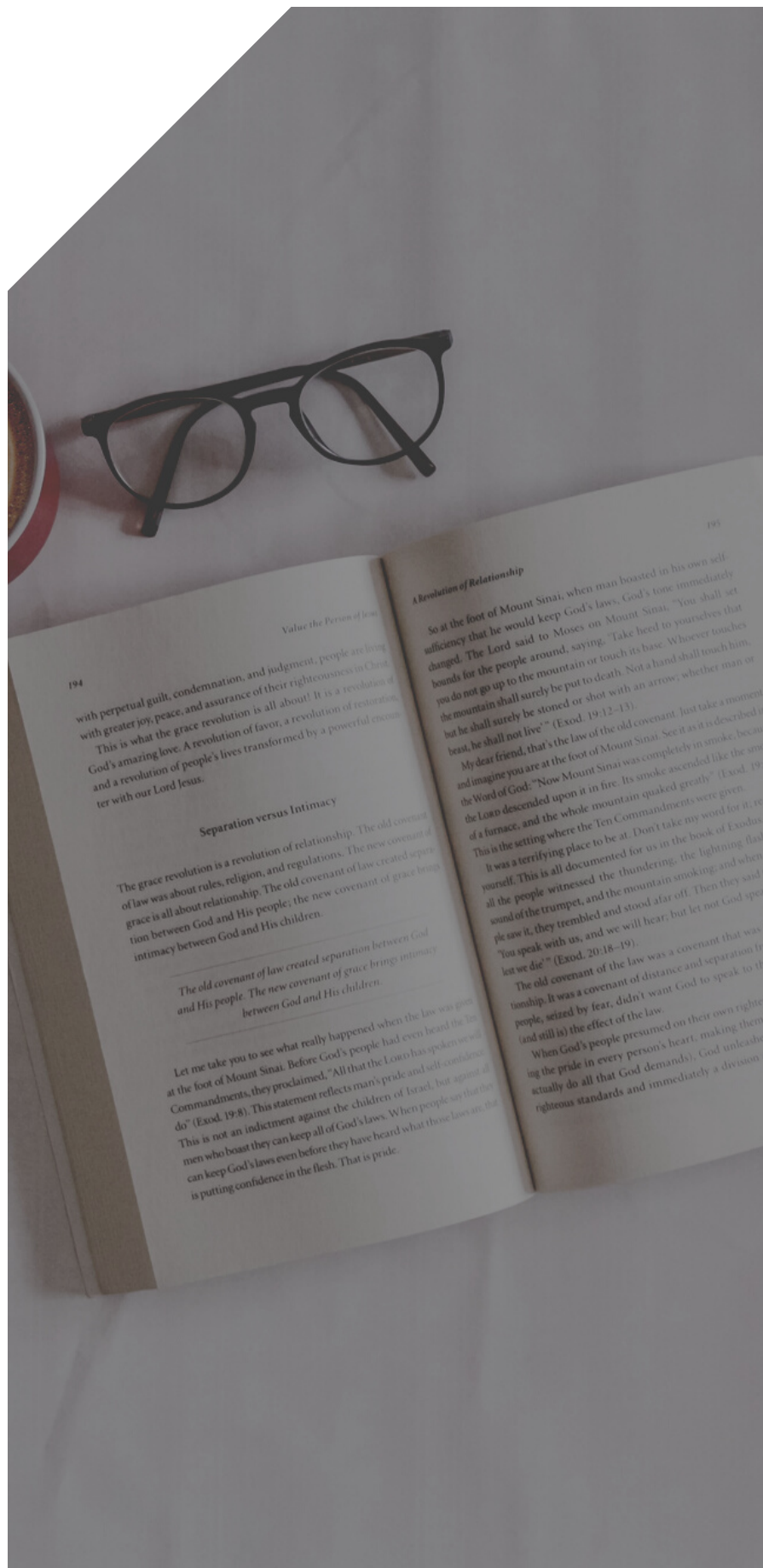
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Intersectional Feminism and Diverse Perspectives in Contemporary Romance

Abigail Nordstrom | UMCUR 2021




A brief history of romance novels

- ▶ Shakespearean comedies
- ▶ 18th and 19th century novels such as Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*
- ▶ Modern "rom coms" such as *Bridget Jones's Diary*



Intersectional feminism

- ▶ The ways various facets of a person's identity overlap
- ▶ These variables transform the way people experience oppression, stereotypes and inequality



Contemporary romance examples

► *The Kiss Quotient* by
Helen Hoang

► *Take a Hint, Dani Brown*
by Talia Hibbert

► *The Bromance Book Club*
by Lyssa Kay Adams



The Kiss Quotient

- ▶ **Explores race, ableism and gender norms**
- ▶ **Hoang provides valuable own-voice perspective**
- ▶ **Exemplifies intersectional feminism in a contemporary romance novel**



A brief history on feminism and literature

- ▶ *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf
- ▶ “Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference” by Audre Lorde
- ▶ Additionally, in my full paper: “When We Dead Awaken: Writing as Revision” by Adrienne Rich



What contemporary romance accomplishes

- ▶ **By women, for women**
- ▶ **Intersectional feminism and diverse representation**
- ▶ **Frequent own-voice perspectives**



Thank you for watching!

If you are interested in further reading, my full essay will be uploaded alongside this video.

