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**Lacie’s American Dream**

The American Dream is the pinnacle of wants. Many people dream of having a perfect house in the suburb, or the corner office. Whatever their version of the American Dream is, it is layered with wants. In the episode ‘Nosedive’ from Black Mirror, Lacie has always wanted physical objects to find happiness. Throughout the episode however, Lacie reflects about her wants in life and becomes an entirely different person. By analysing the details in her interactions with others, the penalty she received at the airport, and her speech at the wedding, we can uncover that Lacie wanted to genuinely express herself to others. The social rating system implemented in her world caused her to keep her opinions to herself, only for Lacie to release them when she took a nosedive. She used to only care about her social status and rating, but she had the chance to reflect on herself from a different point of view, enabling herself to express her own beliefs.

Through the subtleties in Lacie’s interactions with others, we discover that she is keeping her own opinions and emotions in a locked cage. She wants to express them instead of sweettalking to get a higher social score. For example, she does not mind expressing her opinions about her brother to him, but she keeps her opinions out of conversations with others. Since Lacie and her brother grew up together and still live in the same house, Lacie does not feel the need to keep up her persona. Her façade is carefully placed on once she is in the outside world, always being overly friendly to others to get a higher social score. She greets everyone too nicely and has a fake, annoying laugh that is overly used in regular conversations with others. Everyone is friendly on the outside to each other, or no one will accept you. This social standard dictates her wants, and the barrier slowly collapses as Lacie’s score plunges. She does increasingly riskier things that she would dare not to attempt when she had a high score. This was an important time for Lacie to reflect on herself and her opinions before she got to the wedding.

Lacie’s reactions at the airport started releasing her emotions and opinions, enabling her to express herself more often. She had the right to be upset when the flight was cancelled and the flight attendant did not offer any solutions for her. She then lashed out and security docked her a full point off her social score. She would have never made a scene at the wedding otherwise. This was the root cause of Lacie being turned down by Naomi because she had a low social rating. This led to Lacie doing things she would have never done as a highly ranked person. This was an important steppingstone of finding her true feelings and opinions that were buried underneath her mask.

Lacie’s actions at Naomi’s wedding and in jail show that she has found out that she wanted to express her pent-up feelings. She travelled from vehicle to vehicle all the way to Naomi’s wedding only to get rejected. This was the nail in the coffin for Lacie. Her journey to the wedding gave her time to reflect on what caused her to be in the situation, making her speech at the wedding even more powerful. She defended herself with the knife because she was drunk from the whiskey the truck driver gave her and she wanted everyone to here her side of the story, even if it meant she would go to jail. Lacie’s journey of showing her true feelings and opinions of Naomi ended suddenly with a meaningless ripple against the walls of the gigantic social bubble in their world.

Humans in nature need to express themselves. There is no other way to release their emotions, feelings, and opinions. This is what Lacie wanted throughout ‘Nosedive’. There were many subtleties hidden in her interactions with others, her reactions at the airport, and her action at Naomi’s wedding. Her opinions were released by social media, the same thing that kept them hidden all her life. Social media is the platform that judges everyone and chooses who can have a comfortable life, your career path, and who your acquaintances are. Lacie saw the reality of how social media shapes us, and she left her mark behind. If you lose your social acceptability, then why not go down in style?