

Lynn Nottage's *Sweat* (2015)

Jenny Kirton

Read the below quote from academic Julie Burrell.

[The play] at once predict[s] and confront[s] the two racialized narratives of US deindustrialization that emerged with force around the 2016 presidential election: the first, a tale of a white American heartland whose future had been jeopardized by economic restructuring; and the second, that of a depopulated yet also Black- inhabited space of death inherently devoid of all productive futurity, a ghetto, a slum, a no- place.

- Julie Burrell, 'Postindustrial Futurities in Contemporary Black Feminist Theater: Lynn Nottage's *Sweat*, Dominique Morisseau's *Skeleton Crew*, and Lisa Langford's 'The Art of Longing,' *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, 42.1 (2021), pp.59-81.

Can you identify any other moments in *Sweat* than the ones mentioned in the mini-lecture, wherein Nottage challenges these two cultural narratives? Offer an analysis of your chosen moment using Burrell's framework.