

influence the film's overall theme, in con-
As a relatively close adaptation, the few ch
adaptation of *Kiss the Girls* can be analyze
whether (and if so how else, besides the n
the film deracializes the novel.

PHOTOGRAPH BY WILLIAM HART



KISS THE GIRLS, PARAMOUNT PICTURES, 1997

ENTER ALEX CROSS

"This is the first time Morgan [Freeman] has h
time that one of the best actors in the world

blues) are employed as signifiers of black

In the novel, after dealing with the
and cared about, he returns home, Sam
ter, grandmother, and other relatives ha
Naomi, a law student at Duke University
has been missing for four days. Cross's s
it took the Durham police so long to co
mother asks about the race of the polic
suggesting that the delay has something
Cross observes about his grandmother:
of it. She says she's too old to be socially
doesn't so much dislike white people as
novel, this is the first place where race a
explicitly, and the reader can then find
lines of dialogue and quite a few pages o
film, however, in which Cross's grandm
significantly, her racist attitudes are not
issue is boiled down to a brief, quickly d
Cross: "If they got a chance to wrap it up
you think they'll hunt for one lost black

Cross and Sampson plan a trip to D
what they can do to help find Naomi. W
traveling to "The South," Cross's grand

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how Patterson frames the conflict in the :

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In spite of the police c novel, with the FBI's blessing findings to them), Cross be of the disappearance of his speaks with Florence Camp dent at Duke, and Patterson tion of a racial issue referre Girl Syndrome": the tende focus on young white wom not always see a story or rei woman of color. Cross asks Durham police were slow in disappearance, and without replies, "The Durham polic about us as much as they d (111). During their conver

LEFT University Lake, located featured in the novel *Kiss the* talking in sibilant whispers as was all so dreamily romantic"

PHOTOGRAPH BY WILLIAM HART



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ABOVE LEFT Tobacco factory, featured in the novel *Kiss the Girls*: "Seth lived in an old working-class area north of downtown Durham. At one time, the neighborhood had been filled with tobacco-factory workers. His apartment was a duplex in an old shingled house that had been converted into two apartments" (115).

ABOVE RIGHT Cross questioning Seth (actor Richard T. Jones) in Seth's room with posters in the background featuring the rare race references in the film

²⁵ Significantly about sports in the film. O rough game playing in th his black op players pull racial tensio