DECONSTRUCTING BEAUTY MYTH : A READING
OF *I FEEL PRETTY*

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I hereby certify that this project entitled Deconstructing Beauty Myth: A Reading of *I Feel Pretty* by Mereena George is a record of bona fide work carried out by her under my supervision and guidance.

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Deconstructing beauty myths involves critically analyzing and dismantling societal norms and cultural expectations, questioning unrealistic standards that define beauty within a specific context. Beauty ideals are subjective and socially constructed, influenced by historical context, cultural values, and media representations. This research deconstructs beauty myths via a concentrated analysis of the film *I Feel Pretty*. The film's narrative provides a prism through which to evaluate social notions of beauty, body image, and self-worth. The study looks into how the film challenges and supports existing beauty ideals. The formal object of this research is gender study that focuses on beauty myth. Scholars consider beauty myth as the social force that pressurise women to confirm to unrealistic social standards of physical beauty. This paper aims to discuss the societal idea of beauty and the resistance towards it as prescribed in the movie *I Feel Pretty.*

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Introduction

The visual field of social life revolves around a culture that contains definitive meanings and ideologies that work on a feedback loop of demand and supply. This visual culture is thenorm it exists, is widely accepted, and it is the air we breathe. But once we begin to view the images we are presented with critically, we notice that the air must be filtered through. This is critique. Visual culture is an avenue through which ideologies thrive on as mass production and distribution of images make ideologies easily accessible and widely circulated. Movies in visual culture are important because they use the representations within them to tell a completely different story than the narratives they contain. Body politics refers to the ways in which individual bodies and their attributes are regulated, controlled, and contested within a social and political context. It encompasses the intersections of power, identity, and societal norms that influence how bodies are perceived, treated, and represented.Currently, there are many standards of beauty propagated by the media, such as displaying the perception that beautiful women are women who have white skin, black hair, and slim body.

An interdisciplinary method called Deconstructing Beauty Myth exposes prejudices and exclusions while challenging society standards and expectations of beauty. In order to advance a more inclusive perspective that welcomes diversity, dispels prejudices, and celebrates the intrinsic value of every individual, it critically evaluates a variety of facets of beauty, including cultural, social, and historical dimensions. This leads to the promotion of a more authentic beauty.

This perception makes women feel excruciating with their own bodies. The image of beauty in women is built by public perceptions that spread throughout all aspects of human life.

The stereotypical image of beautiful women attached to society is influenced by magazines containing beautiful female models. Female models are used as the cover of women's magazines and are used as a standard of perfect female beauty. Wolf states that women's magazines followed the progress of women and the evolution of beauty myths. This paper analyes beauty myths and female resistance in the movie *I feel pretty*. The first step of processing data is watching the film and reading the script intensively. The data obtained were analyzed using the theory of beauty myth. Data analysis was performed through qualitative descriptive techniques by interpreting the data found in the movie I Feel Pretty and linked to the feminist theory, beauty myth.

The perception of beauty changes over time. In other words, images of beautiful women are all around us and they are portrayed differently from time to time. They are given through the mass media, such as television, fashion magazine, social media, and movies. As prianti to be the "beautiful women". People, especially women, consciously or unconsciously accepted this constructed definition of beauty by letting them divide women into categories, beautiful and ugly. In general, woman will follow the standards of beauty that they see and exist in society. The definition of beauty is different in every country and era as it is not something universal but cultural Hence, the depiction of beautiful women in the mass media was considered as the reflection of beautiful woman at that time. Despite the fact that they can contribute to body dissatisfaction, mass media featuring thin ideal images are popular forms of media. Many women and men choose to expose themselves to idealized body images as featured in the media In a world where social media and beauty standards are ubiquitous, the idea of one's own value and attractiveness frequently takes on complexity and nuance. The film *I Feel Pretty*, which was co-directed by Abby Kohn and Marc Silverstein, tackles this difficult terrain and offers an informative story that looks at issues

of confidence, self-perception, and conventional notions of beauty. The film attracted a lot of attention and started conversations on self-worth and body image.

Comedian Amy Schumer portrays Renee Bennett, a woman who battles self-consciousness about her appearance in a society that places an emphasis on physical perfection.

However, a surprising and transforming incident causes Renee to develop steadfast confidence and trust in her own beauty, despite the fact that she has not physically changed in any way. The video explores Renee's increased sense of self-assurance as she faces professional and personal problems.

As we set out on our study adventure, our goal is to examine how the themes are portrayed of identity and perceptions of oneself and to go deeper in them. Using an interdisciplinary approach influenced by sociology, psychology, and media studies, try to decipher the underlying themes woven throughout the story and how they affect how society views beauty and value. This study project will include an in depth study of the movie's characters, storyline, photography, and conversation, among other elements. Furthermore, we will influences broader cultural attitudes towards body image, confidence, and the pursuit of happiness.

Chapter one focuses on major aspects of the theory of beauty myth. Explores the societal expectations and standards imposed on women's physical appearance.the double standards that women face, such as being judged for their appearance and how these standards are used to control and limit women's opportunities and potential.

Chapter two analyses the beauty myths and female resistance in the movie *I Feel Pretty*. The primary data in this research are the dialogues in the movie *I Feel Pretty*. This research

eventually finds out that having these traits is a form of resistance against the normalized unreasonable beauty standard.

Chapter **1**

How Images of Beauty are used against Women

Women have made significant progress in legal and economic areas, but they have also faced negative portrayals of female beauty. This has led to the creation of a beauty myth, which asserts that women should strive for and maintain beauty as an inherently beneficial quality. This myth perpetuates the belief that women are worthless and invisible without beauty. The physical attractiveness, especially for women, is considered the paramount indicator of value. Nonetheless, this prevailing concept extends beyond gender, influencing societal norms and values on a broader scale. This essay analyzes the 'beauty myth' by examining the reasons for society's preference for outward appearance over innate skills and aptitudes. Beauty is a social construct formed by historical, cultural, and sociological variables rather than a natural quality. According to social constructionism, criteria of beauty are arbitrary and change throughout time across cultures.

Intersectionality emphasizes that beauty standards intersect with other forms of identity, such as race, gender, class, and ability. This concept recognizes that beauty norms are frequently unlawful and sustain oppressive regimes, favoring some groups over others. Naomi Wolf's The Beauty Myth looks into how unrealistic beauty standards influence women. It investigates how the beauty business benefits from women's fears and teaches us to put others appearance above our own potential. Current beauty standards are a political tool for restricting women and preserving the patriarchy. The women's rights movement has achieved great progress over the last few decades. Despite the fact that women now have legal and reproductive freedom as well as greater

flexibility to seek higher education and enter historically male-dominated industries, there has been some resistance. Women have accomplished legal and economic achievements throughout time.

This pressure undermines women's ability to function well in society and be accepted by it by instilling bad behaviors and a preoccupation on appearance in both sexes.

In a world that is continuously assaulted with images of unachievable beauty, we frequently find ourselves quickly attempting to live up to these unreasonable expectations. Women, in particular, are under enormous pressure to adhere to society's beauty norms. Within this perspective, Naomi Wolf's seminal book The Beauty Myth becomes not just a riveting read, but also a critical tool in the fight against repressive beauty standards. Wolf reveals the devious ways in which the beauty industry fosters an unrealistic and oppressive beauty myth that impacts not just our physical appearance but also affects all aspects of our life. Through real and detailed examples, Wolf reveals the extent of this pervasive myth, leaving no stone unturned.

These images are being used with growing efficiency to work against the progress women have made, creating what is known as a beauty myth. The beauty myth claims that there is an elusive quality called "beauty a quality that women should do everything in their power to pursue, achieve and maintain. The myth enforces certain views. For instance, that beauty is an inherently good and beneficial quality and that, without it, women are worthless and invisible. Consider women who are at the top of their professions. Even with all their achievements and success, the pressure to look good doesn't cease. If anything, women with more power and status are scrutinized more and the pressure to look beautiful only gets worse. The beauty myth is the final mechanism of cultural ideology with the power to control women, women who have otherwise been liberated to freely pursue their desires. Before the Industrial Revolution, the social value of women was measured largely by their work within the domestic sphere. Their lives took shape

around attributes like work aptitude, physical strength and fertility not beauty. With industrialization came increasing freedom for women. To maintain the patriarchy, a new, subtler and more deceptive method for undermining women's freedom and power was needed. This is what the beauty myth does it keeps women trapped, self destructively competing with themselves and each other. And since images and standards of beauty change, the identity of women is constantly vulnerable and in need of external validation.

For many years, society has debated beauty standards, as well as the ideals and preconceptions that follow them. Beauty standards ideas and stereotypes relate to the cultural constraints and expectations around physical appearance, as well as the fundamental ideas and assumptions about beauty. Beauty standards are the precise physical characteristics or traits that are seen desirable in each culture or community, such as clean skin, a thin physique, and symmetrical facial features. Ideologies are the underlying ideas and ideals that drive our impressions of beauty, whereas stereotypes are overly simplistic and sometimes damaging generalizations about individuals based on their looks. Beauty standards have been extensively researched in psychology, sociology, and other fields. Furthermore, beauty standards are not universal but vary across cultures and periods and can intersect with other social identities such as race, gender, and class.

While some people are more conscious of the detrimental effects of stereotypes and beauty standards, these pressures are however widely prevalent in our culture. In order to combat the negative impacts of these pressures on people and society as a whole, it is crucial that we keep studying and grasping the complexity of beauty standards, ideologies, and stereotypes. We should also work to encourage more acceptance and variety in our view of physical beauty. Research has

also shown that beauty standards are not universal but vary by culture, with Western beauty standards typically emphasizing thinness and youthfulness, while other cultures may prioritize other traits such as fuller figures or pale skin. Furthermore, beauty standards intersect with other social identities, such as race and gender, resulting in complex and often harmful beauty stereotypes. As such, it is crucial to understand the impact of beauty standards, ideologies, and stereotypes on individuals and society as a whole.

The concept of beauty was defined as a obligatory modification for women's power, with the discriminatory purpose of this lie being masked by claiming that it can be earned through laborious persevering and enterprise. The working woman was told to think about beauty in a way that undermined her thinking as a result of the women's movement. The central rule of the myth is that for every feminist action, there is controny beauty myth reaction.

Since the Industrial Revolution, men have used women's beauty as a currency, with ideas about beauty and money being parallels in the consumer economy. Women often perceive themselves as first-class beauty, with their face representing their fortune. By the time the women's movement entered the labor market, both women and men were customary to seeing beauty as wealth. However, as women demanded access to power, the power structure used the beauty myth to undermine women's advancement. The beauty myth was used as a technique to create a work force, affecting women during work hours and adding a third shift to their leisure time.The diva, unaware of its full implications, read the beauty myth and added serious beauty labor to her professional agenda, requiring her to invest more money, skill, and craft than before women breached the power structure. Women took on the roles of professional housewife, professional careerist, and professional beauty.

Wolf covers the idealization of beauty at every chance in order to show how it objectifies women. Even though some of her opinions and conclusions are unsupported and there is no clear concise view on how to tackle this ever -lasting problem, many women can understand the desire to fit in and find her writing meaningful and inspirational. She has an uncanny ability to connect to others as she does state, I was grateful to have had the good luck to write a book that connected my own experience to that of women everywhere. By going through similar experiences she wrote a book that promotes an image of self acceptance that goes further than clichés that control beauty.

In present scenario, women have more power, legal recognition, and professional success than ever before. Alongside the evident progress of the women's movement, however, writer and journalist Naomi Wolf is troubled by a different kind of social control, which, she argues, may prove just as restrictive as the traditional image of homemaker and wife. It's the beauty myth, an obsession with physical perfection that traps the modern woman in an endless spiral of hope, self-consciousness, and self-hatred as she tries to fulfill society's impossible definition of the flawless beauty.

Women in the First World, who are rich and educated, have liberties that other women do not. They frequently feel confined by petty issues such as physical attractiveness. Despite feelings of shame and guilt, an increasing number of women are rethinking the link between female liberty and beauty. They feel that this lack of freedom stems not just from neurotic inclinations, but also from a deeper issue about the link between female emancipation and beauty. This raises concerns about the value of women's independence and attractiveness in today's world.

Wolf asserts why women put their health at risk and go through misery with intense dieting or plastic surgery to look like the wrinkle-free, naturally thin fashion model in ads and the voluptuous female in pornography, both prevalent images that adversely affect women.

these values She emphasizes the point that a search of beauty is akin to behaviors seen in religious or cultic settings in that every aspect of a person's appearance is analyzed by peers who watch with godlike eyes, temptation manifests itself in the form of food, and diet and grooming are sources of salvation. Women have been conditioned to view themselves as cheap replicas of fashion photos; as such, they must learn to identify and challenge these internalized judgments. Wolf's thoroughly researched and convincing views promote abandoning unrealistic goals in favor of beneficial ones.

Both men and women had grown accustomed to having beauty associated with fortune by the time the women's movement began to gain momentum in the workplace. They were both ready for the unforeseen sequence of events that occurred following: The beauty myth was a material instrument utilized by the power structure to hinder women's development when they wanted access to power. To transform an inappropriate current into one that is right for the machine, a transformer plugs into an energy source at one end and the machine at the other. In the last 20 years, the beauty myth has become cemented as an intermediary between women. Similar to the transformer, it weakens women's energy while connecting women's energy to the power architecture while performing small modifications that benefit them.

Women continue to enjoy the advantage of dress inequality, as they are willing to wear uniforms voluntarily when they trust the fair rewards of the system. They are also unwilling to give up their "beauty" protection until the reward system is in good working order. Professionals are reluctant to give up the controlling function of professional beauty qualifications until women are demoralized and pose no threat to the system. This uneasy truce results in women losing when playing for time under the beauty myth.

Chapter 2

Female Resistance towards Beauty Myth

.   Beauty is a deeply ingrained aspect of society, often portrayed as a feminine trait. It has become a trend on social media, with women being constantly bombarded and convinced by the standardization of beauty. This deconstruction of women's beauty standards on social media, particularly Instagram, highlights the deconstruction of women's beauty standards and whether the posts are an act of exploitation against women.

The perception of beauty changes over time, and so does how women perceive it. Images of beautiful women are all around us and are portrayed differently from time to time. They are given through mass media, such as television, fashion magazines, social media, and movies. People, especially women, consciously or unconsciously accept this constructed definition of beauty by dividing women into categories, beautiful and ugly. In general, women will follow the standards of beauty that they see and exist in society. The definition of beauty is different in every country and era, and the depiction of beautiful women in the mass media was considered as the reflection of beautiful women at that time.

Renee, a fat and modest girl, enters the gymnasium surrounded by figure skaters. She struggles to climb onto the exercise bike, resulting in ripped tights and a beaten crotch. Despite trying to follow a YouTube lesson for a fashionable haircut, she is unable to locate a proper size. The store only sells normal sizes, and Renee's disdain for her body drives even babies to scream when they see her. Renee, a programmer at Lily Le Claire, is a lady who likes removing makeup at work. Her pals persuade her to go on three dates and express her various preferences. Renee is hesitant about her social media photo, but you can change her position and apply effects to make

her unhappy. The protagonist's relationship with Mason and her girlfriends is the subject of debate. Renee, a character with poor self-esteem and feelings of invisibility, suddenly perceives herself as a supermodel after banging her head during a Soul Cycle lesson. The screenwriters made it clear that Renee will never be portrayed as a supermodel in the film since it might alter people's perceptions. The movie's thesis is that nothing changed, and the trailer drew criticism from several women who believed it was impossible for a woman with severe body issues to gain confidence. However, the film is a feel-good film, particularly for women, and the author hopes viewers will give it a chance. *I Feel Pretty* is a film about Renee Bennett, a single woman who struggles with feelings of being inadequate and insecure about her body. The film looks at the idea that everyone is beautiful in certain situations, and the protagonist's journey demonstrates the value of self-acceptance.

She believes that she has magically turned into a beautiful woman and that her happiness depends on the physical look. The movie shows that slim and thin body, toned skin, blonde, and symmetrically beautiful face are the general standard of beauty in America. The opening scene of Renee's SoulCycle class sets the stage for her insecurities and desire to conform to societal beauty standards. The pivotal moment when Renee hits her head and perceives herself as conventionally beautiful highlights the arbitrary nature of beauty standards and the power of perception in shaping one's self-confidence. Renee's job interview for a receptionist position at her company's headquarters showcases her newfound confidence and assertiveness. Scenes depicting Renee's romantic interactions with Ethan illustrate the importance of self-acceptance and authenticity in relationships. Ethan's genuine affection for Renee, regardless of her perceived physical attractiveness, challenges conventional beauty norms and reinforces the value of inner beauty.

Amy Schumer, a struggling woman, struggles with her life and wishes she was more beautiful. One day, she bumps her head, and she sees herself as she always wanted to look. She is amazed by her beauty and starts to see new paths and life opening up for her. The movie stars Amy Schumer, who is known for her charm and fun-loving nature. The romance between Amy and her on-screen boyfriend is organic and not based on jokes. People are frequently obsessed with what others think about them, ignoring the truth that pleasure derives from feeling satisfied with oneself. Some individuals were first wary of the film's theme of internal empowerment, but they did not find it dangerous. The movie feels 2.5 hours long, which may be due to its pacing being at the time point. If a movie is 2.5 hours long but, it would have been more enjoyable as a more heartfelt film. The movie's message is that comfort and self acceptance are more important than external perceptions. The only catalyst that changes in Amy's life is how she views herself. This is a real and relevant message that the movie offers. Amy Schumer's life path is a sincere exploration of accepting oneself and its significance. While the film may not be as hilarious as some may have imagined, it eventually serves as a reminder that happiness comes from inside and that one should not be scared to accept their own beauty and self-worth. Renee's realization that her looks has not altered drives her to consider the nature of confidence in themselves and cultural notions of beauty. This sequence emphasizes the significance of self-acceptance and accepting one's actual identity despite its exterior appearance. Renee gives an encouraging speech at the film's finale, pushing the audience to redefine beauty and embrace self-worth.

Throughout the film, media representations of beauty are shown to adhere to narrow and unrealistic standards. Advertisements for cosmetics and fashion perpetuate images of flawless models with perfectly sculpted bodies, setting unattainable benchmarks for ordinary individuals like Renee. These idealized standards contribute to Renee's feelings of inadequacy and fuel her

desire to conform to societal norms of beauty. Media images constantly bombard Renee and reinforce her insecurities about her appearance.

The representation of beauty in social media and other kinds of media may have a significant influence on women's self-esteem and importance. Women may overcome the beauty myth and find personal fulfillment by defying society conventions and encouraging self-acceptance. Naomi Wolf's book The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women analyzes the glamor, beauty, and thinness industries with a skeptical view. It claims that women are physically and psychologically oppressed by these industries, which were created for political and financial purposes. According to Wolf, a woman can be powerful and accomplished, yet she will always feel unhappy and believe that she has failed.

According to Wolf, the notion of the beauty myth, which classified women based on their physical attributes, has taken the place of the notion of the woman of valor, or housewife, in the concept of social surveillance. Because of this, beauty has become a major concern for a growing number of women in the current day and is increasingly acting as a determining factor for them. According to Wolf, beauty which varies depending on the society has evolved into a universal concept that denotes power and wealth and is used to both symbolize the target of strong men's desires and the general tendency of women toward beauty.

The mythological power that women associate with beauty, particularly in terms of social authority. The film tackles the conflict between being attractive in order to be respected and what is on the inside that matters. The film isn't ideal, with some silly moments and an unnecessary male role. However, it seeks to internalize the mystical force of beauty, which has the potential to affect conduct in both positive and bad ways. The video emphasizes the necessity of understanding the nuances of beauty and its role in defining one's identity. The film's concentration on the inner

workings of beauty is a distinctive component of the film, emphasizing the significance of internalizing the mystical force.

The basic argument of The Beauty Myth is that as women's social importance has increased, so has the pressure they feel to maintain artificial societal standards of physical beauty as a result of commercial media influences. As a result, women are pushed to conform to the conventional beauty standard, ignoring their genuine attractiveness. The Beauty Myth provides well-reasoned, thoroughly researched, and, quite frankly, obvious explanations for everything that women may naturally do, such as comparing themselves to other women's bodies and taking pleasure in their flaws, feeling embarrassed to leave the house without makeup and fashionable attire, and having self-esteem that is directly correlated with society's ideals of our appearance, sexuality, and what men think of us.

A woman's love for her profession and life leads to excellence in her career, which heightens her appeal. Beauty is sometimes characterized by outward looks, but a woman's enthusiasm for life and job may make her appear energetic and engaging. Renee, a lady with aspirations of becoming a receptionist, exhibits her love for her profession and her want to work in that role. Beyond conventional notions of beauty, a kind and humorous lady possesses a certain charm. Being kind creates relationships, crosses boundaries, and has a long-lasting effect. A witty woman preaches positivism and offers a new outlook on life. A person's sense of humor has the power to enhance one's looks more than physical attributes. Additionally, it can prolong a relationship.

Beauty is not what matters. Naomi Wolf's The Beauty Myth is an engaging and thought-provoking examination of the social structures that influence women's views on beauty and value. Wolf explains how the media and the beauty business work together to uphold a standard of beauty

that psychologically and physically oppresses women through sharp analysis and persuasive arguments. It is said that the beauty myth serves as a tool for societal control, taking women's focus and energies away from advocating for real equality. The Splendor She contends that society uses the myth as a weapon to uphold the norm and maintain conventional gender roles. The media and beauty industry create unreachable beauty standards, which feed an endless cycle of insecurity and self-doubt that keeps women from focusing. The book provides a scathing critique of the medicalization of beauty, where women are pushed to view their natural body problems as problems in need of fixing. Wolf examines the relationship between sexuality, labor, and the beauty myth in the final chapters. She talks on how women's sexuality has been influenced by society's standards of beauty, leading them to see their bodies as objects of performance. Their sense of agency and sexual confidence are so impacted. Examines the impact of the beauty myth on the careers of women. Furthermore, Wolf She contends that women's professional advancement is restricted by the need to live up to beauty standards because they devote a lot of time, money, and energy on maintaining their looks rather than developing their jobs.

Wolf concludes by advocating for a collective awakening to the beauty myth and its implications. She exhorts women to turn their focus away from artificial beauty standards and toward real equality. Wolf thinks that women might contribute to the perpetuation of gender-based inequality by realizing the artificiality of the beauty myth and its function in sustaining such inequalities. Wolf is of the opinion that women are capable of escaping its grip and taking back control. Naomi Wolf reveals the harmful impact of traditional ideas of beauty on women's lives in her book The Beauty Myth. By means of detailed examination and impassioned writing, she illuminates the ways in which the beauty myth functions as a control mechanism. Wolf examines

the misconceptions around sexuality and work, analyzes the diet and beauty industries, and critiques how women are shown in the media.

Conclusion

The impact of cultural conventions, expectations, and beauty standards is the main topic of this film, which examines the complex relationship that women have to their bodies. Renee Bennett, the main character, is a lady who struggles with poor self-esteem and lack of confidence in her looks and is continuously subjected to pressure to meet social norms for beauty. She feels inadequate and worthless despite her brilliance, ability, and kindness because she thinks that in order to be successful or deemed pretty, one must adhere to unrealistic beauty standards.

Deconstructs beauty stereotypes, giving a deep look at society standards, self-perception, and empowerment. Drawing on feminist, media, and postmodern ideas, the film investigates the complexities of beauty ideals and their influence on women's lives. The protagonist's trip questions the arbitrary nature of society conventions, addressing the monetization of beauty and the objectification of women. The study underlines the relevance of intersectionality in understanding beauty standards, recognizing individuals' complex experiences depending on race, age, and socioeconomic background. It demands for continuous investigation of cinematic representations and the film's postmodern standpoint. The film's narrative intricacies and theoretical frameworks emphasize the need of continuous discussions about beauty in contemporary culture.

Renee's perspective undergoes a dramatic shift after she suffers a head injury during a SoulCycle class. Following the accident, Renee experiences a radical transformation in her self-perception, perceiving herself as conventionally attractive despite no change in her physical appearance. This newfound confidence propels Renee into a world of self-assurance and empowerment, as she navigates life with a newfound sense of boldness and fearlessness.

The portrayal of beauty in movies changes over time, as beauty is not something fixed and universal but cultural. American beauty standards have been shown in Hollywood movies, and it

keeps changing and evolving until now. The movie *I Feel Pretty* makes the argument that personality specifically, confidence, humor, kindness, and passion is now more important to attractiveness than outward looks. The film, which was written and directed by Abby Kohn and Marc Silverstein, features Amy Schumer as the insecure single lady with a hopeless career, Renee Barrett.

She suddenly gains self-confidence after a freak accident leads her to believe she looks like a supermodel. Fans got their first look at *I Feel Pretty* in February, and it immediately caused a stir on social media. However, critics argue that contemporary audiences have been corrupted by heavily airbrushed magazine spreads, surgically enhanced supermodels, and unrealistically proportioned porn stars, leading them to accept Schumer as a dowdy fixer-upper.

A well-meaning, female-targeted romantic comedy that aims to make everyone feel beautiful, *I Feel Pretty* sets itself apart from similar films by never revealing how Renee perceives her rose-tinted reflection in the mirror. The inspired premise that Renee's transformation takes place entirely in her head prompts the question of why society encourages women to second-guess their self-image in the first place.

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