

# Lesson 3

## Consent

### Reading 2

#### A Conversation Between Four Teen Writers on the Website Scarleteen:

Retrieved from <http://www.scarleteen.com> and reprinted with permission. Names have been changed per request of the website founder and executive director.

#### TEENCOOL:

I'm sure I don't need to ask, but, anyone catch the Oscars on Sunday?

If you didn't here's a recap of the scene I'm going to talk about:

When he won his surprise best actor trophy for his role in *The Pianist*, Adrien Brody walked on stage, and planted a very big kiss, with tongue possibly involved, on presenter Halle Berry. From my perspective, she looked shocked and maybe a little upset while the kiss was actually happening, and then when the camera went back to her as the two were walking off the stage, she seemed happy enough and they had their arms around each other.

After the kiss initially ended, Brody motioned to Berry and said, "I bet they didn't tell you that was in the gift bag!"

Now, there's no evidence that these two know one another, let alone that they know one another intimately (Halle's married and her husband was in the audience).

So, knowing that Brody had just won a major award in a huge surprise, is what he did sexual harassment, and would Halle Berry be right in speaking up about this? Maybe she's fine with it in hindsight, but I really wonder how she felt at that moment.

I've tried to defend his actions to my partner over the past couple of days, but I just can't do it. I can't think of a reasonable defence for him. I'd say now that she isn't his property. My partner rightly pointed out to me that as a presenter in that situation, Berry might have expected that the winner would give her a peck on the cheek and maybe a hug, but that would be it.

What do you think?

#### CR8ZYGRL:

Ick, ick, ick. I saw that, too. And I am much less likely to dismiss it after he so rudely took up much more than his fair share of time, calling to the orchestra to stop, talking for at least two minutes.

If he was that inconsiderate and rude right after that, well.....

In short, no, it did NOT look to me like Halle Berry was okay with that kiss, and I do feel it would be appropriate for her to say something about it. Excitement and surprise doesn't really cut it with me as an excuse for that.

**CINNOBUN:** I can honestly say I didn't see anything really wrong with it.

**DREAMTEEN:** what he did was wrong. i am a survivor of sexual abuse and something like that would trigger me. 1 in 3 women are survivors. how would he know how she would feel about his actions. he violated her boundaries.