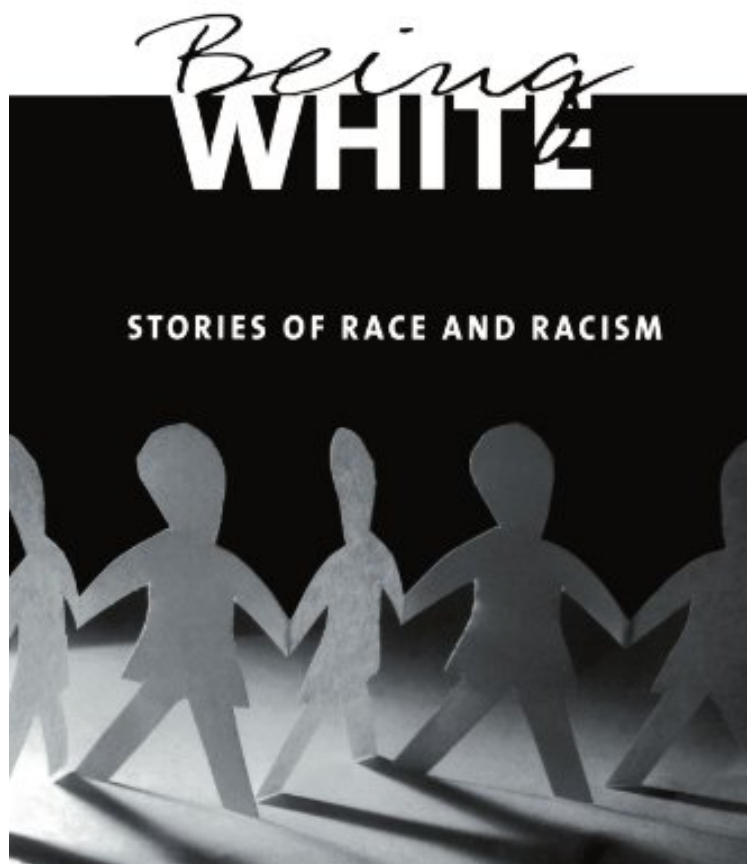


Being White: Stories of Race and Racism

Karyn D. McKinney

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Karyn D. McKinney : Being White: Stories of Race and Racism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Being White: Stories of Race and Racism:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Necessary studyBy DougThis book is essential reading for anyone who has failed to consider what it means to be white. McKinney helps to expose the fiction and fallacies of those who have often given little thought to their own whiteness. The study involves laying out common myths and arguments of whiteness as well as providing real and practical steps to take in order to combat racism in our present day.4 of 9 people found the following review helpful. An okay bookBy Stan KBeing White: Stories of Race and Racism is about

European-Americans' experiences with non-European Americans in many ways of life (about 200 plus pages). It is a nice reading but I don't know for sure whether the people who provided the stories were real people as it only had random first names and it could easily be faked. But, still, a nice reading. An average reading. Stanley. 2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Don't Pass this Text By! By Zipporah L. I noticed this product has only ONE review, and that is a travesty, because I think it is the most important book on race relations out there for young people. We used this in a course I took at the University of Missouri entitled "Race and Folklore." The goal of the class was to explore common cultural myths about race in America, such as stereotypes and historical narratives that shape feelings of racism in our country. Our teacher, Anand Prahlad, is a Black Studies professor, and was very enlightened in this subject area. As a POC (person of color), I felt I knew a lot of race relations in this country, but if there's one thing that rarely gets discussed, it's WHY some white Americans feel the way they do. Also, I can say I left the class far more knowledgeable, with better tools to fight racial injustice. This book helps us understand why white Americans hold particular beliefs about minorities. It's told in a series of personal vignettes from young white American college students. Some of the items addressed are affirmative action (a lot of children argue it punishes white students for being white), "reverse racism," thoughts on miscegenation, and how white Americans view their own racial identity. The racial identity parts are interesting, for the reason it shows that white Americans are not taught to recognize their race as POC (people of color) are, since the world generally caters to the white aesthetic. Aside from choice ethnic groups that have not fully assimilated into "white" culture (like certain immigrant populations, such as Middle Easterners and Eastern Europeans), they view white as a cultural "default." Anyway, I don't want to get too far into the text of the book, because you should read it, but I think the book would be helpful in two regards. One - this text will help white Americans understand how certain beliefs they have been taught by their parents are falsehoods based in racism (and how unaware of that racism they are). It also will help you get a better grasp on how to view your own identity in a country where you feel "bland" (the words of some of the children, not mine). It constructs racial pride in a positive, accepting way, not a crazy neo-Nazi form. Two - it helps POC learn how to relate to white Americans on the subject of race, and how it's not useful to call a person "racist," but to say a certain attitude or belief is "racist." But also, we have to give them a platform to voice their opinion and not be heckled the second they open their mouths, even if it is uninformed. Only by laying everything on the table can we have true progress. So, in conclusion, I get the book is really pricey, that's university presses for you. But I see there is an ample supply of used copies. But even so, it's a great investment, because this is a book you'll want to pass around, and flag passages for to educate others. I can't say how many times I have quoted statistics, or sentiments from the text. I've shared this book with at least 10 friends now, and had the pleasure of taking this class with a white friend, so we learned so much about each other. Also, I might add the author is a Southern-raised white woman, so she explains racial theory in a way you can understand, even if you're new to the game.

Karyn McKinney uses written autobiographies solicited from young white people to empirically analyze the contours of the white experience in U.S. society. This text offers a unique view of whiteness based on the rich data provided by whites themselves, writing about what it means to be white.

"Being White is a brilliant book! Karyn McKinney reveals how a common array of evasions, disavowals, and rationalizations enables white college students to obscure the role that race plays in their own lives and in the lives of others. The empathy, insights, and analysis contained in this book offer an unparalleled understanding of the inner workings of contemporary whiteness."-George Lipsitz, Professor of American Studies, University of California at Santa Cruz "Being White expands and deepens our knowledge of whiteness in vital ways. Karyn McKinney captures the racial obliviousness that shapes the world of white youth in America. This condition, in part based on ignorance, and in part self-serving, damages their lives, their dreams, and their potential as human beings. Yet McKinney does not only indict. She also shows white youth challenging racism and moving against it. Being White is both a serious indictment and a testament of hope. Highly recommended!"-Howard Winant, Professor of Sociology, University of California at Santa Barbara "Karyn McKinney is one of the few race scholars in the United States to empirically examine how young whites reconcile white privilege in an era of colorblindness. Being White gives voice to whites' narratives about what it means to be white that are typically never heard beyond the insularity of all-white social networks. Her analysis about the ways in which white privilege is reproduced and justified through a process often invisible to young whites is a major contribution to our understanding of race relations."-Charles A. Gallagher, Associate Professor, Race and Urban Concentration Chair, Georgia State University "In this fine book Karyn McKinney goes boldly where few scholars have ventured. She is perhaps the first scholar to explore thoroughly how young white Americans of this era think about-or, often, do not think about-their white identities, privileges, and racist society. McKinney probes cleverly and deeply into how young white Americans relate to being white and their evanescent sense of whiteness."-Joe Feagin, Ella C. McFadden Professor of Sociology, Texas AM University About the Author Karyn McKinney is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Penn State University, Altoona College. She is the co-author of *The Many Costs of Racism* with Joe Feagin, and her work has appeared in *Contemporary Sociology*,

