

The book was found

Waking Up White, And Finding Myself In The Story Of Race



Synopsis

For 25 years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In *Waking up White*, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that listeners will be rooting for her - and ultimately for all of us.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours and 23 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audiobooks.com Publishing

Audible.com Release Date: April 20, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01EINQC3I

Best Sellers Rank: #23 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Education #220

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Personal Memoirs #243 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National

Customer Reviews

Yes, "white privilege" is a real thing. Yes, Black Lives Matter. Yes, we all need to do much more to understand why life is very different for white and black (and brown and Latino and Asian and...) in America. Still, this book is such an unrealistic portrayal of life for most white people in the US that it is likely to exacerbate tensions rather than help resolve them. As other reviewers have pointed out, Ms. Irving has conflated much of her economic privilege into her white privilege. She readily admits to a very upper class (let's not even try for "upper middle class") background but then seems to think that this kind of upbringing has given her the same experiences as the "rest of us," who have often had to deal with limited choices because of the less than affluent communities and schools we inhabit. Further, it is almost beyond belief that a person given the privileges she has had could be quite so uninformed about the real world. Are all white people as blind to reality as she seemed to

be before "waking up white?" I find that difficult to believe. Here, for example, is one of her early experiences in the real world of work. Irving completed four years of college at "very white" Kenyon college and then spent an extended time on a study abroad program in "also very white" Vienna. She then returned and used her father's extensive connections to get an internship at WGBH, Boston's premier public radio station. On her very first day at the station, this new intern with no job experience is approached by another staff person and is offered a position as managing director of a local dance company! Though she admits that she may not be well qualified, she still takes the job.

I thought I was further along in my journey of understanding racism after 15 years of work. This book opened my eyes to many more of my own behaviors that can be problematic for people of color. Debby Irving's descriptions of "not wanting to look stupid" or "not wanting to offend", so just avoiding or keeping quiet when uncomfortable was SO familiar. The thought that schools were a place of fear for many African American parents, such that they didn't feel comfortable advocating for their children was mind-blowing and disheartening, but upon reflection, totally reasonable. And the reality that black anger can easily be dismissed by white administrators who avoid conflict reduces their likelihood of success. How many times would I try before I gave up, given the same obstacles???

I appreciated the list of dominant white male culture behaviors, and the discussion of how they can be both good and bad, depending on the situation. For those who have read this far, the list follows: Conflict avoidance, Valuing formal education over life experience, Right to comfort/entitlement, Sense of urgency, Competitiveness, Emotional restraint, Judgementalness, Either/ Or thinking, Belief in one Right way, Defensiveness, Being status oriented. Personally, I would add one more, Seeing ourselves as Individuals more than members of a group. (the white group) This book made me think deeply about how these behaviors inhibit attempts to be more inclusive of folks who have different views, and how I can behave differently. If we white people continue to avoid honest discussions across the racial divide our forefathers erected, we will never benefit from the amazing gifts other cultures can offer, and we will stay in a fearful state.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Waking up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race I Can Draw It Myself, By Me, Myself (Classic Seuss) Finding Ultra: Rejecting Middle Age, Becoming One of the World's Fittest Men, and Discovering Myself 36 Views of Mount Fuji: On Finding Myself in Japan Lost Among the Birds: Accidentally Finding Myself in One Very Big Year Bare-Bones Meditation: Waking Up from the Story of My Life Waking, Dreaming, Being: Self and Consciousness in Neuroscience, Meditation, and

Philosophy Waking Up Catholic: A Guide to Catholic Beliefs for Converts, Reverts, and Anyone
Becoming Catholic Waking the Buddha: How the Most Dynamic and Empowering Buddhist
Movement in History Is Changing Our Concept of Religion Waking to God's Dream: Spiritual
Leadership and Church Renewal Waking Up: A Guide to Spirituality Without Religion Waking Up Is
Hard to Do (Book & CD) Waking the Dead: The Glory of a Heart Fully Alive Vegan Brunch:
Homestyle Recipes Worth Waking Up For--From Asparagus Omelets to Pumpkin Pancakes Nothing
To Do, Nowhere To Go: Waking Up To Who You Are The Hypnotic Use of Waking Dreams:
Exploring Near-Death Experiences Without the Flatlines What to Remember When Waking: The
Disciplines of Everyday Life What to Remember When Waking: The Disciplines of an Everyday Life
Weyward Macbeth: Intersections of Race and Performance (Signs of Race) The Kurious Kid
Presents: Race Cars: Awesome Amazing Spectacular Facts & Photos of Race Care

[Dmca](#)