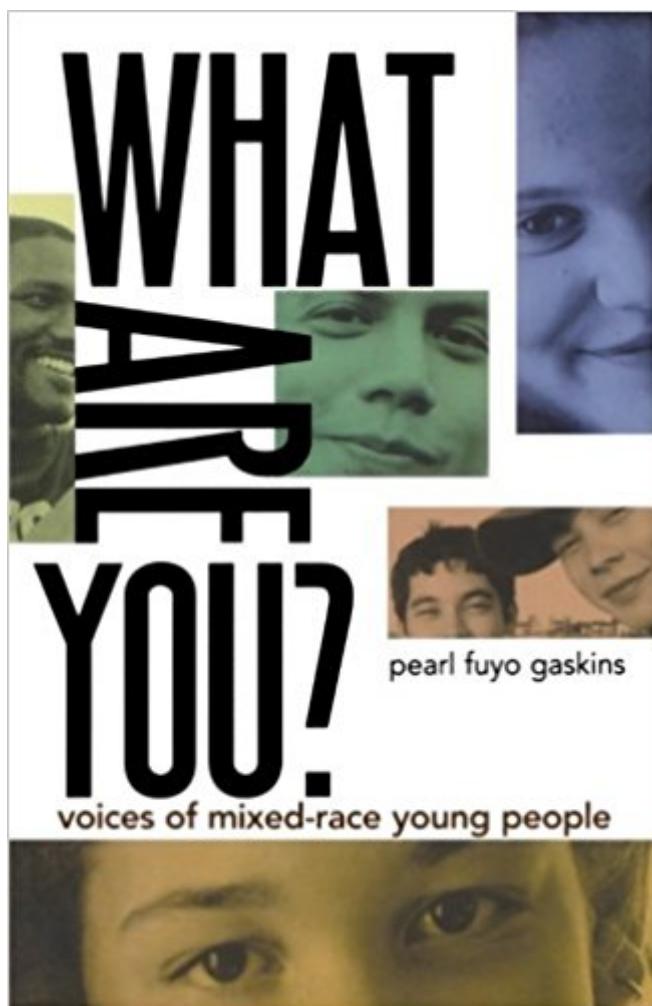


The book was found

What Are You?: Voices Of Mixed-Race Young People



Synopsis

In the past three decades, the number of interracial marriages in the United States has increased by more than 800 percent. Now over four million children and teenagers do not identify themselves as being just one race or another. Here is a book that allows these young people to speak in their own voices about their own lives. *What Are You?* is based on the interviews the author has made over the past two years with mixed-race young people around the country. These fresh voices explore issues and topics such as dating, families, and the double prejudice and double insight that come from being mixed, but not mixed-up.

Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #828,360 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Social Science > Sociology #64 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Cultural Studies > Sociology #86 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Prejudice

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up-In this sensitive, thoughtful collection of interviews, essays, and poetry, over 40 young adults ranging in age from 14 to 26 relate their experiences growing up in the United States. Their racial identities represent a wide blend of cultures: European, African, Asian, Native American, Jewish, Arabic, Caribbean, Hispanic, and Pacific Islander. Arranged thematically with occasional author notes offering clarification and transition, the primarily upbeat testimonies address issues of discrimination, dating, family dynamics, and self-esteem. The contributors have had to respond to prejudice both inside and outside their own ethnic groups in addition to universal problems, such as financial worries, divorce, parent and sibling conflicts, and academic pressures. Although American

society challenged them to "check one box," declaring the race they belong to, they have resisted categorization, seeking instead to understand and express the rich blend that is their personal heritage. They have drawn strength and optimism from a support network provided by family members, organizations, and/or advocacy groups. A helpful resource section includes annotated lists of affinity and advocacy groups and Web sites, as well as relevant fiction and nonfiction books, magazines, and movies and videos. While underscoring the complexity of the mixed-race experience, these unadorned voices offer a genuine, poignant, enlightening and empowering message to all readers. Gerry Larson, Durham School of the Arts, NC Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"In the eyes of many people I am the product of a relationship that wasn't supposed to happen." "I'm no tragedy, and no exotic other." "I'm no jungle-fever rainbow baby." The contemporary voices are disturbing, frank, witty, and heartfelt. In essay, interview, and poetry, 45 mixed-race young people between the ages of 14 and 26, from all over the U.S., speak about their growing up. Whether black and white, white and Asian, Hispanic and black, Jewish and black, or whatever, each one is intensely personal; yet each one speaks to universals of coming-of-age as an outsider who doesn't fit into accepted categories. You read one piece, and it seems to say it all; turn to the next young person, and there is more surprise and drama. As with all authentic writing, the closer you get, the more diversity you see, and the more connections. Some speak of shame, some of pride; most have experienced both, in school and community, in their own families, in their individual searches for roots and love. Gaskins is a journalist for a teen educational magazine and is herself of mixed race. She allows the young people to speak for themselves, but she adds brief commentary where necessary as well as an excellent overview, and the insights of historians, therapists, and other experts. She applauds the recent revolutionary change that allows people to check more than one racial category on federal forms. The extensive annotated list of resources--including books, movies, Web sites, and advocacy groups--adds to the value of this landmark book. Read this with Bell's novel *Zack*, reviewed on p.1689, about one boy's search for his family roots, and with Nash's *Forbidden Love*, p.1687, for a view of American history through the lens of race. Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When our biracial bicultural daughter hit teen years this issue became a lot for her. We bought this book based on the recommendations and my wife and I learned a lot. I don't think I've ever wanted to actually thank an author before.

My niece is biracial. I can't pretend to understand what challenges she is facing at her all white middle school, but I purchased this book because I wanted her to know that she's not alone. This is a great, easy read for anyone who has ever experienced discrimination. I loved it!!!

Read the more interesting chapters out loud to my half Japanese son. I think the material is thoughtful and important for young people who can have identity and conforming issues when of mixed heritage. In a few generations, I expect this will be much less of an issue.

Exceptional book covering a very unique subject matter - from a youth's own experience. This will give a peek into their world which often with "what are you", not who, what's your name, what do you do.....

loved it

So when I read, I don't do it like normal, Kay? See, I jump around to different parts. I can start off reading the introduction, then hop to the third chapter. Or read the first five chapters in order, then read the rest of the book from the last chapter backward to chapter five. I like reading how I feel like. So I've read bits and chapters of this book. I don't really like it so much. It's also in heavy competition with about five other books I'm reading though. I don't like this book because it feels superficial. Nobody I know has grown up in an area that discriminates against mixed people, maybe blacks or Latinos or whites. But mixed people are like the ideal race now. So these stories feel fake. Lame and made up. It's like a self-pity marathon. But it's interesting. So I like that it's a collage. Some stories were told great. So the book gets made real again by spots and flicks of amazing storytelling. I want a modern book, I wanted this to be more current; past 2005. It's a 90s book. I wanted creativity. I wanted mixed people who knew they were mixed and were creatively expressing it. I just wanted sophistication and I didn't find it here. I like this book because it tried to tackle the awkward, messy issue of mixed culture. It tried.

Even though I'm not of a mixed race, I resonated with the thoughts and feelings of those in the book. As a Chinese-American raised in a Jewish neighborhood, I often did not know what I was and people would ask the question "Where are you from?" knowing full well the purpose of their question. I appreciated the range of emotions and thoughtful musings by the writers - from

ambivalence to full acceptance of their unique heritage. This is an important resource to those who work in student development at the college level. It's a picture of the world as it is and will be.

I'm confused by my reaction to the book. As an editor of MAVIN, a multiracial magazine, I would think that the stories told in *What Are You?* would incite well-versed reactions. However, I had butterflies opening the envelope and while quickly skimming the table of contents. Quickly the euphoria changed to familiar, yet repressed feelings of 'other-ness,' alienation, ambiguity--almost sadness. The book's impact is inevitably felt on all levels, as being mixed is something you can never truly 'abandon' or 'escape;' it is intricately woven into every experience, simple and profound. Now I understand that the source of my confusion is the gradual process of the book's impact as it revisits myriad experiences in my history, and stirs them all up again. As they settle back down, the influence of each experience has been slightly altered and better understood. Congratulations and thank you for creating a powerful resource whose impact waxes daily.

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