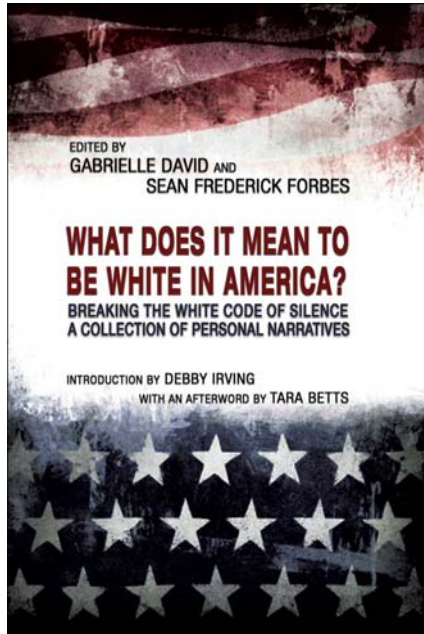


## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE WHITE IN AMERICA? Breaking the White Code of Silence A Collection of Personal Narratives

Edited by Gabrielle David and Sean Frederick Forbes



**Gabrielle David and  
Sean Frederick Forbes**



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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE WHITE IN AMERICA? BREAKING THE WHITE CODE OF SILENCE, A COLLECTION OF PERSONAL NARRATIVES, is a collection that asks just that. The first of its kind, this collection of 82 personal narratives reflects a vibrant range of stories from white Americans who speak frankly and openly about race, not only as it applies to people of color, but as it applies to themselves. The stories cover a wide gamut of American history from contributors around the United States; from reminiscing about segregation and Jim Crow, to today's headlines of police brutality, politics and #BlackLivesMatter. The variety in style and subject matter from people of different class and employment backgrounds have one point in common—they create an absorbing and thought-provoking collection that explores race from a very personal perspective. In the telling, not only do contributors discuss their discomfort in talking about race, they also share big and small moments in their lives that have shaped what it means to be white in America, and how it affects the way they see themselves and others. In answering the question, some may offer viewpoints one may not necessarily agree with, but nevertheless, it is clear that each contributor is committed to answering it as honestly as possible. An invaluable starting point that includes a glossary and a bibliography of suggested reading, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE WHITE IN AMERICA? is highly recommended for students, teachers and anyone else interested in seeking a deeper and richer understanding of race in America.

“These deeply honest personal stories examine the effect and affect of being white which for so many years has meant ignorance or denial of how racism benefits and forges our own Caucasian identity. Reading this important collection, I am reminded of how processing whiteness is a journey although we may all be at different points of discourse, it is still critical to enter the conversation. May this book get people talking.”

—Jodi Picoult, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Leaving Time* and *Small Great Things*

“The conversations about race in the U.S. have been unnecessarily one-sided and unfairly the burden of people of color. Without the white perspective, indeed white engagement, the struggle for change or even dialogue becomes even more challenging. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE WHITE IN AMERICA? offers a long-overdue response . . . This is a timely and vital anthology.”

—Rigoberto González, writer, book critic, award-winning poet  
author of *Our Lady of The Crossword* and *Mariposa U*

“WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE WHITE IN AMERICA? is a must read by all. This collection of personal narratives provides varied perspectives about being white, white privilege and other counter points that need to be said and read.”

—Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako)  
Activist Librarian and Adjunct Lecturer

### About the Editors

GABRIELLE DAVID is a multidisciplinary artist who is a musician, photographer, digital designer, poet and writer. She is the executive director of the Intercultural Alliance of Artists & Scholars, Inc. (IAAS), a NY-based nonprofit which she co-founded in 2000, and has served as its Executive Director since its inception. She is also the publisher of the organization's imprint, 2Leaf Press.

SEAN FREDERICK FORBES is a professor, scholar and the author of *PROVIDENCIA: A BOOK OF POEMS* (2013). His work has appeared in numerous journals and publications. Forbes is the director of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Connecticut, and teaches creative writing and poetry.

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