



Justified Anger Book Club Discussion Questions

I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness

Author: Austin Channing Brown

- 1) What is one aspect or example of the experience of being Black in a white-dominant culture that stood out to you as something you had not thought about before reading this book?
- 2) In the Chapter "Ain't No Friends Here", Channing Brown writes about how the teacher Dr. Simms "ruined their lives" by opening their eyes to injustice, because then they saw it everywhere. Have you had an experience like that, of having your eyes opened to injustice and then being unable to ignore it? How might that experience have been different for the author and her classmates than it was for you?
- 3) In the chapter "Whiteness at Work", Channing Brown notes the tendency of companies and organizations to establish diversity goals in numbers and quotas and she writes "Whiteness wants enough Blackness to affirm its own goodness." Have you seen this occur in an organization you were involved with or worked for? How did that play out?
- 4) The chapter "White Fragility" had a number of people in it:
 - a. The man who verbally attacked her at the end of her training
 - b. The man's wife, who "apologized" for him
 - c. The co-worker who pulled the guy aside
 - d. Other people in the training
 - e. Her team who discussed what she could have done differently at the debrief meeting
 - f. The co-worker who pointed out that the man should take responsibility for his own behavior and feelings
 - g. The families that visited the retreat center that she worked for:
 - i. The one's that left early
 - ii. The father and daughter from the second group who discussed their experience as they left

Which of these people have you been at one time or another?

- 5) On page 121, Channing Brown writes:

I've met a number of white people who adamantly resist thinking of themselves as a community, but I cannot imagine resisting my identity as a member of the Black community. I feel kinship and responsibility, pride, belonging, and connection with people simply because of a shared racial and cultural background.

Did Channing Brown's descriptions challenge any of your previous perceptions of "Black communities"? If so, why do you think that is?