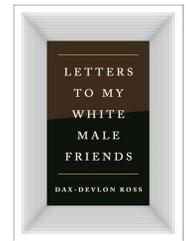


# LETTERS TO MY WHITE MALE FRIENDS

## DAX-DEVLON ROSS

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. When did you first become aware of your race?
2. Who were the Black people in your life growing up? What role(s) did they play?
3. Looking back, were you raised to be color blind, color cognizant, or something else?
4. Looking back, how did the people who raised you think and talk about race?
5. How did race manifest in your education?
6. How do you think that the color of your skin has shaped your life?
7. Looking over your life, what are the major moments (the Obama presidency, Trayvon Martin's killing, etc.) wherein the national conversation on race entered your field of vision? Where did you stand in those moments? What was informing that stance?
8. What does it mean to not be a racist?
9. How have you participated in maintaining the pillars of white silence—whether it be through disengagement with racial issues, unconsciousness about racism's manifestations or otherwise?
10. What would it mean to move away from white silence? What would it take?
11. What are some of the advantages that you believe you experience as a white person?
12. What are some of the disadvantages that you believe you experience as a white person?
13. What is your reaction to Ross' concept of "white disbelief"? Where have you seen "white disbelief" of Black experiences show up in your life?
14. What were your initial reactions in reading and/or learning about white dominant culture? Has that changed over time?
15. How have you seen white dominant culture in your personal/professional life? How have you propagated it? How have you resisted it?
16. What can you--and others--do to address white dominant culture? What are you willing to give? What do you need?
17. How does race manifest in the community in which you live?
18. How does race manifest in your workplace (or past workplaces)? How can you push your workplace forward?
19. How does race manifest in your habits of consumption (where you shop, your entertainment preferences, etc.)?
20. When is a time you were simply 'neutral'? What informed that decision?
21. How does race manifest in your children's education? How does it manifest in their social lives?
22. What would it look like to raise anti-racist children?
23. In the last chapter of the book, Ross asks the reader to "focus on impact". Are there practical steps you can take in your everyday life to prevent historically harmed people from being harmed again?
24. Do you have people in your life that can serve as a support system and/or discussion partners for your continuing work in ending white supremacy?