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Under Our Skin: Getting Real About Race--and Getting Free From The Fears And Frustrations That Divide Us



Synopsis

Can it ever get better? This is the question Benjamin Watson is asking. In a country aflame with the fallout from the racial divide in which Ferguson, Charleston, and the Confederate flag dominate the national news, daily seeming to rip the wounds open ever wider—is there hope for honest and healing conversation? For finally coming to understand each other on issues that are ultimately about so much more than black and white? An NFL tight end for the New Orleans Saints and a widely read and followed commentator on social media, Watson has taken the Internet by storm with his remarkable insights about some of the most sensitive and charged topics of our day. Now, in *Under Our Skin*, Watson draws from his own life, his family legacy, and his role as a father to sensitively and honestly examine both sides of the race debate and appeal to the power and possibility of faith as a step toward healing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Benjamin writes at one point in the book about the movie "A Time to Kill" and Jake Brigance's closing trial arguments, which brings the jury to understand the personal, identifying nature of the injury caused to the young woman (the daughter of his defendant). He further talks about Brigance's interest in winning the trial, but really having no interest in his defendant, Carl Lee Hailey. Their daughters will never play together, because Brigance sees him the same as the jury does, on the "other side." It's not personal, but philosophical or political. The same can be said of recent examples of young black men who have died tragically: Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, and Eric Gardner. Benjamin writes about the perspective black men and women grow up with

toward the police: one that doesn't trust that they will be treated fairly, and a perception that has been proven accurate by their experiences. He talks about the divide between the races, and that for instance, white people don't understand what it's like to be targeted by the police, citing the example of driving his wife to the hospital for the birth of their child. Why were they pulled over? Why didn't the officer give a reason why he had pulled them over once he knew all was in order with them, and that they didn't violate any laws (or, why does the officer not offer well wishes on the birth of their child)? Would the officer have treated them differently or told them why he stopped them if Benjamin had been white, even (as Benjamin dreamed) leading them onwards to the hospital as they do in the movies? As a white male, I believe Benjamin did me a great service in this book.

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