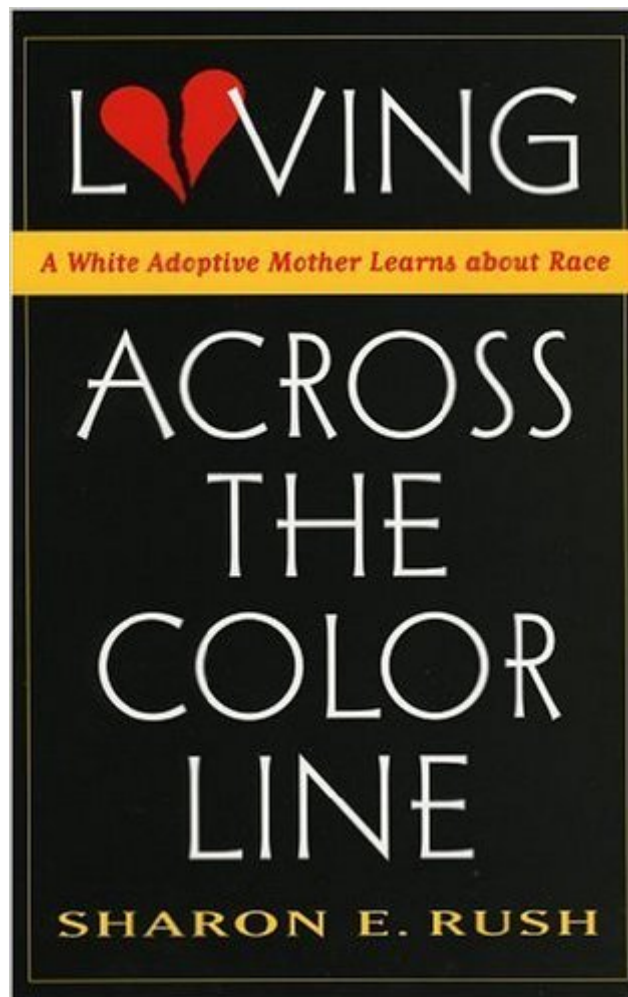


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Loving Across The Color Line: A White Adoptive Mother Learns About Race



Synopsis

What would a liberal, white, civil rights law professor have to learn about race? When Sharon Rush adopted an African American girl, she quickly discovered the need to throw out old assumptions and start learning all over again. This is the moving, heartfelt memoir of a mother and daughter's loving relationship that opened the author's eyes to the harsh realities of the American racial divide. Only by living with her daughter through the day-to-day encounters and life passages did Rush learn that racism is far more devastating to blacks than most whites can ever imagine. Some of the stories are funny, others are sad, a few are almost unbelievable. But they all are poignant because they illustrate how insightful a little black girl of three can be about race and justice. With love and spirituality, Rush and her daughter live a deeply joyous life, just as they both have become increasingly active in working publicly and privately against racism. Dr. Sharon Rush lives in Gainesville, FL, where she is Professor of Law at the University of Florida.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I purchased this book because we are a white (or White, as Rush puts it) couple adopting a biracial child. We have also parented our two biological children, who are, of course, white (or White). I looked forward to reading this particular book over all the others because it was the story of a white mother parenting a black daughter. What more relevant experience could the author have when it comes to parenting a black or biracial child? I was severely disappointed; by the author's ideas, her dry and incomplete writing style, and her apparent lack of common sense and real life parenting

skills. For example, Rush relates a story about her child's teacher giving "Student of the Week" awards in her the classroom. Rush interprets this as a "goal" to be "accomplished." She also interprets her daughter not receiving it as proof positive of racism in the teacher. Any real life parent, who keeps in close contact with the school and other parents, understands these kinds of awards are based not on accomplishment, but on subjective reasons such as a child has worked hard to overcome some deficiency, or a child is having a difficult time and needs a "boost," and most commonly as a "reward" for the children of parents who volunteer in the school and the classroom. Is it fair? No. Is it racism? No. But Rush, rather than explaining how public school sometimes work (and sometimes work unfairly), assures her daughter she did not receive this award because she is black and the teacher is unconsciously racist. In fact, Rush has convinced her daughter (who is biracial, but Rush has decided she should identify entirely as black) that every negative thing that has ever happened to her is because she is black.

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