

waking up  
white

AND FINDING MYSELF IN THE STORY OF RACE

Debby Irving

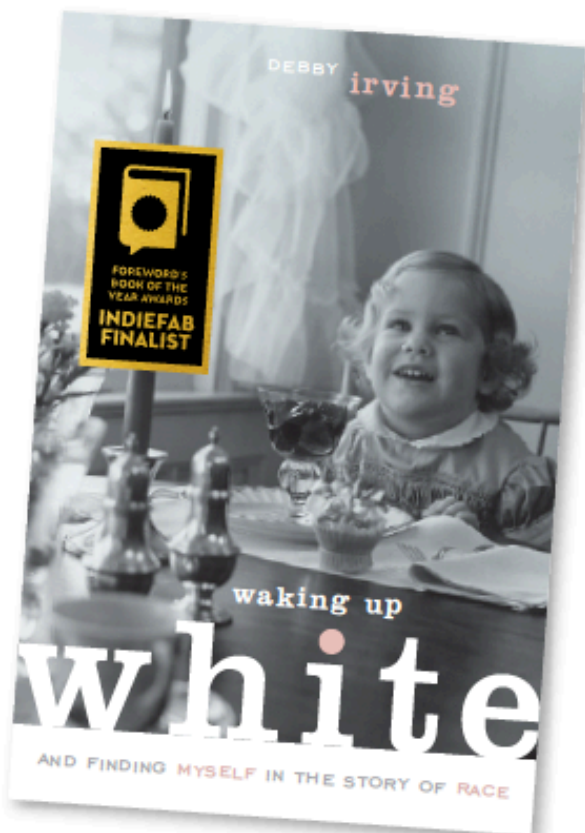
*“One of the most important books on race in recent memory.”*—READERS + WRITERS JOURNAL

*“A rare window on how white Americans are socialized.”*—VAN JONES

*“To say I loved it is an understatement.”*—JODI PICOULT

**“Not so long ago, if someone had called me a racist, I would have kicked and screamed in protest. I see things very differently now.”**

*Waking Up White* is the book Debby Irving wishes someone had handed her decades ago. By sharing her sometimes cringe-worthy struggle to understand racism and racial tensions, she offers a fresh perspective on bias, stereotypes, manners, and tolerance. As she unpacks her own long-held beliefs about colorblindness, being a good person, and wanting to help people of color, she reveals how each of these well-intentioned mindsets actually perpetuated her ill-conceived ideas about race. She also explains why and how she’s changed the way she talks about racism, works in racially mixed groups, and understands the racial justice movement as a whole. Exercises at the end of each chapter prompt readers to explore their own racialized ideas. *Waking Up White’s* personal narrative is designed to work well as a beach read, a book group book, or support reading for courses exploring racial and cultural issues. *Waking Up White* has received awards from eLit Awards, *Foreword Reviews*, IPPY, Indie Next Generation, and USA Book News.



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**About the author:** For 25 years Debby Irving worked as an organizer and teacher without understanding her own whiteness. In 2009, a graduate school course helped her to understand how her racialization as a white person had undermined her best intentions. Her book, *Waking Up White*, describes her racial awakening journey. Debby now works with white people grappling with the impact white skin can have on perception, problem solving, and engaging in racial justice work. Debby holds a BA from Kenyon College and an MBA from Simmons College.

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