

## **Trouble I've Seen - Chapter 2**

### **The Racialized Society I've Seen**

Growing up in Norristown, PA – urban town surrounded by wealthy suburban neighborhoods

Soft form of segregation – school busing program meant attending a predominantly white elementary school

Walked to middle school in neighborhood, thus experiencing “what it is like to be in the majority and in the minority”

Moving to the North Penn School District and attending a predominantly white high school

Racial stereotypes were plentiful but “tended to boost my popularity rather than stigmatize me”

Surprised by acceptance but realizes it was only because “it was full of racial stereotypes that led people to assume that they know me”

College: “How could my time among white Christians have been more painful for me as a young black male than my time among white non-Christians?”

“Black Body, Racialized Society”—process of coming to terms with the realities and challenges of always navigating the racialized character of American society

“The Race Card and the Racialized Deck”—the need to examine the whole deck and observe reoccurring patterns in order to make sense of any individual card

“We aren't playing the race card; we are analyzing the racialized deck”—it is this larger analysis that the majority of white Americans have failed to engage

Definitions of Race and Racism: the idea of race is not biological but rather a social construct of recent vintage; the category of race is ideological and political

Racism is commonly defined as “personal prejudice or hatred of someone of a different race”

Sociology examines racism as a social phenomenon; from this perspective, racism is “a racialized and structural system that organizes our society”

“Our Cultural Reflexes and Bad Racists”