

# Darkism



# 25

Ways dark skin  
people are  
discriminated  
against

By: Rashida Strober

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## **DARK SKINNED PEOPLE DON'T GET PASSES**

My fight is to level the playing field for dark skinned people who don't have the opportunity to take advantage of the fruits of so-called "hard work." I fight for those who are disadvantaged and not aware of it. I fight to protect those dark skinned people who for whatever reason cannot fight for themselves. This system is designed to give the majority population the upper hand in socio-economic opportunities while suppressing those who are not a part of the majority population. For example, a non-dark non-black person of the majority population can be a drunk, a drug addict or fall into the category of some ill lot in life, yet still have more opportunities to advance than the average dark skinned person. Because having skin that is non-dark often leads to automatic privilege, dark skinned people must always come with their "A" game. Dark skinned people don't get passes or breaks in life without putting forth an immense effort. If we are honest we know that the world is not fair to dark people. My aim is to simply make it fair.

### **The Dark Skinned Activist, Rashida Strober**

*Note: Rashida is available for Keynote speaking engagements and performances of the award-winning play a dark skin woman's revenge.*

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***Darkism: 25 ways dark skin people are  
discriminated against***

~By Rashida Strober~

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Written by Rashida Strober

**-FOR TRAINING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING INFO-**



Rashida Strober

EMAIL: [darkskinisbeautifulcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:darkskinisbeautifulcampaign@gmail.com)

[www.darkskinactivist.com](http://www.darkskinactivist.com)

[www.rashidastrober.com](http://www.rashidastrober.com)

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# ***Darkism***

*25 ways dark skin people are discriminated  
against*

~By Rashida Strober~

## DEDICATIONS

This book is dedicated to my beautiful dark skinned daughter Lauryn. You are so gorgeous, smart, kind, capable & dark skinned! To my handsome and intelligent son, Rahim. I'm counting on your greatness!

This book is dedicated to the late great Mattie Everette, my beautiful dark skinned seventh- grade teacher who believed in me when no one else did. She was my first example of class, intelligence, and humanitarianism. I love you! Rest in peace my love.

This book is dedicated to the great Kola Boof, the MOTHER of the dark skinned movement. You are the first person in the world to speak on the discrimination of dark skinned female beauty. Without you Kola Boof, *THERE IS NO ME*. I love, respect and admire you to the fullest!

This book is dedicated to all the dark skinned people of the world and to the people who believe in justice for them.

This book is dedicated to the dark skinned female rappers of the 1990s such as Foxy Brown and Lauryn Hill. Your impact on the perpetuation of dark skinned female beauty equality can never be understated. Thank you.



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**BOOK THE WORLD'S FIRST DARK SKINNED  
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and performances of the award-winning play a dark skin  
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# **RASHIDA STROBER**

The “Dark Skinned Activist”

## **A HELL OF A SUCCESS STORY**

“*Even if you’re going through hell, keep going!*” This is one of *Rashida’s* most inspiring quotes by the motivational king, *Les Brown*. *Rashida* knows about going through hell. A Florida native, *Rashida* is the only girl among 6 siblings. She was born into what seemed like hell on earth, yet through it all, she discovered a burning desire to become a talented performer. At a young age *Rashida* was destined for success as she won numerous acting awards, including a prestigious Ruth Eckerd Hall Scholarship and the Florida Thespian Festival Superior award.

The *St. Petersburg Times* wrote about her crowning achievements at the tender age of 13. Soon after, life’s trials shook the foundation of her chances at achieving her dream. *Rashida’s* self- esteem was brutally assaulted at every turn by classmates who made her life a living hell. Known as “*black and ugly*” “*monkey mouth*” and “*African Booty Scratcher*”, she was told by many that she would never make it as an actress. Living on the streets and all alone by the age of 14, *Rashida* endured poverty and sexual exploitation. Although homeless, beat down, busted and disgusted with life, *Rashida* held fast to her dream of acting.

With God's help she escaped the poverty and sexual abuse and by age 17, she earned a GED, found employment, saved money for an apartment and enrolled in college. After graduating from the University of South Florida with a Master's Degree in Political Science, *Rashida* moved to LA to pursue her acting dream. In 2006 she wrote, produced and starred in her autobiographical one-woman show, *The Ice Cream Lady's Dream*. Inspired by the dark skin mental abuse of the main character and a lecture *Rashida* delivered on dark skin in 1998 at St. Petersburg College, she decided to write *A Dark Skin Woman's Revenge* in the summer of 2006. This groundbreaking play spurred an international movement recognizing the beauty plight of dark-skinned women and girls.

After three years in LA *Rashida* relocated to St. Petersburg. After returning she continued to write, speak and perform the play with the theme of uplifting dark skin beauty. She taught in Pinellas County Schools and St. Petersburg College and appeared on television's *The Forensic Files* and various theatrical productions, including TV Commercials.

*Rashida* launched the website Actortube.com, a video-sharing site to promote actors, actresses and performers and in 2008 she founded ICLD Productions. ICLD is the first production company of its kind, producing plays specifically about the dark-skinned female experience. Since 2006, *Rashida* has been performing as 5 characters in the groundbreaking play *A Dark Skinned Woman's Revenge*. Select venues include

*The University of South Florida, The Atlanta Black Theatre Festival and The Washington DC Black Theater Festival.*

*Rashida* has been recognized by her peers for her stellar acting talents. In 2012, she won the *Playwrights Red Carpet Award*. She won “*Actress of the Year*” for her heart-wrenching performance as *Georgana Nelson*, a badly treated dark skinned, mentally ill woman in *A Dark Skin Woman’s Revenge*. *Rashida* has been featured in local and national newspapers and on numerous television programs. In 2013 she made the cover of the *Floridian Magazine*.

*Rashida* is on a mission to change the world for dark skinned people. Her talents as an actor and orator are reflected in her ongoing efforts as *The World’s First Dark Skinned Activist*. In 2014 *Rashida* made history. Inspired by the play *A Dark Skin Woman’s Revenge*, she created the *International Dark Skin is Beautiful Campaign*, the first in the world to uplift the beauty of dark skinned women and girls. An expert on the plight of dark skinned women and girls, *Rashida* tours the country speaking about the issue of dark skinned beauty. Sought after for her unique views and expertise on dark skin, *Rashida* has appeared on numerous talk shows including *The Tommy Sotomayor Show*, *Questions of a Lifetime* and was seen by millions as the feature story on *Bay News 9*. The highly anticipated book version of the play is available at [rashidastrober.com](http://rashidastrober.com) You can also find other books written by *Rashida* including, *Darkism: 25 ways dark skin people are discriminated against*, *How to*

*be the hottest dark skinned chick on the planet and She Black But she ain't ugly: A dark skin girl's triumph.*

Rashida is one of the lead panelists on the *Girls Change the World Workshop* in Pinellas County Schools. She is also a keynote for the *Great American Teach-In*. From High school students to churches, to theaters and community organizations, *Rashida* inspires audiences through her unique style of energetic, entertaining, raw, honest and engaging insight. As *The Dark Skin Activist* since 1998, *Rashida* is passionate about using her talents as a performer to change the course of history for dark skinned women and girls around the world. Her most recent live show is called *Burnt Black Crispy Biscuit*. To find out more visit [rashidastrober.com](http://rashidastrober.com).

Support her *Dark Skin is Beautiful Campaign* by learning more, sharing the mission and donating today.

Rashida can be reached at  
[darkskinisbeautifulcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:darkskinisbeautifulcampaign@gmail.com).

**WEBSITE** [www.darkskinactivist.com/](http://www.darkskinactivist.com/)

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**WIKIPEDIA** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashida...>

*Note: Rashida is available for Keynote speaking engagements and performances of the award-winning play a dark skin woman's revenge. Visit \_*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Inventor of Dark Skinned Activism Speaks	13
Darkism is Real	16
Why this book is of monumental importance	19
Who this book is for	21

## **THE 25 WAYS DARK SKINNED PEOPLE ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST**

1. Dark Skin Women are Jealous, Bitter Bitches	23
2. The Black Man's Whore: How Non-Dark Women Benefit from Dark Skin Female Oppression`	27
3. Ratchet, Manly, Ugly & Ghetto Darkies	32
4. Who does this Dark Skinned Bitch think she is?	37
5. No Dark Skinned Women Allowed	42
6. Too Dark Skinned for Elite Status	44
7. Big, Black Bad Attitude	49
8. Black, Ugly & Broke with Bad Credit	51
9. Big Black Thief	56
10. Too Dark for Good Customer Service	59
11. Too Dark to get a Master's Degree	64
12. Dark Skinned Harassment & Social Media Bullying	67
13. Get Your Black A\$\$ Out	72
14. Too Dark for TV	76

15. Hard Work + Dark Skin = You Miiiiiiiiiiiiight be Successful	78
16. Dark Skinned People are Mean as Hell	80
17. Too Dark to get Adopted	83
18. Too Dark to Date	85
19. Dark, Loud & Violent	87
20. The Unacceptable Dark Skinned Woman	89
21. Too Dark & Dumb to Invent Anything	91
22. The Black & Ugly Jokes	93
23. Dark Skinned Welfare Queens	95
24. Prison Punishment & Dark skin	97
25. Stereo-typed as Ignorant & Violent in Movies and TV	99
Solution	102
Booking Info	103
More on Rashida	104
Resume of a Dark Skinned Activist	107
Dark Skin Glossary of Terms	112

**DISCAILMER:** I use the word *nappy* multiple times in this book. Although many have used the word *nappy* to negatively describe black hair, I do not view the word *nappy* in a derogatory sense. In addition, my use of the word *nappy* is used to juxtapose it to popular conceptions of so-called good hair atop the heads of so-called acceptable looking black people.

## THE INVENTOR OF DARK SKINNED ACTIVISM SPEAKS

I, Rashida Strober, invented dark skinned activism. I, Rashida Strober, created the phrase “*dark skinned activist*.” I, Rashida Strober, invented the term *darkism* which simply means the discrimination of dark skinned people. I, Rashida Strober, am the world’s first dark skinned activist.

In the wake of my dark skinned activism I have been accused of everything from dividing the black race to hating light skinned women. Some black men are even afraid to do interviews with me even though they agree that I’m speaking the truth. They want to protect their little reputations among those who they prize to be better than a dark skinned woman like me; regular dark with nappy hair. Their accusations are all vicious lies to hide the truth of dark skinned discrimination. They are resentful that a regular dark skinned, nappy headed woman has the audacity to speak, write, and commentate the way I do on dark skin.

The worst thing that has happened to me as the world’s first dark skinned activist and inventor of dark skinned activism is the 6 death threats that I have received on *Facebook*. Why might you ask? Most Black people are afraid to deal head on with the elephant in the room. I’m not afraid and that is the problem. They don’t like it and I don’t give a damn! Instead of the attackers (who almost always agree with me) coming up with a solution to end *darkism* they continue to



perpetuate *darkism* by attacking and telling the most horrendous lies on me.

The problem of dark skinned discrimination is as old as American Chattel slavery. Europeans started the vicious cycle of *darkism* with the introduction of American Chattel slavery. The Mulatto Elite continued the legacy of *darkism* after slavery, during reconstruction and after. To deny these **FACTS** is to be a liar and a manipulator of history. Many have benefited **FINANCIALLY** and **SOCIALLY** from the discrimination of dark skinned people. Don't believe me? Then answer the question of why the depiction of heavy set dark skinned women by blackmen (the same blackmen who marry NON-DARK SKINNED WOMEN thereby placing millions into the hands of NON-DARK SKINNED WOMEN off the backs of the suffering of DARK SKINNED WOMEN) in movies makes millions of dollars? ( example...*Rasputia* from *Norbit* and *Big Mama* from *Big Mama's House*). Why are dark skinned people replaced by non-dark skinned people on TV and in movies and given the opportunity to benefit economically? (example....*Judge Mablean Ephraim* replaced by *Judge Lynn Toler* on *Divorce Court*, dark skinned *Aunt Viv* replaced by light skinned *Aunt Viv* on *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*). Why are non-dark skinned actors and actresses allowed to play dark skinned actors and actresses and allowed to benefit financially and socially? ( example....*Will Smith* playing *Chris Garner*, *Zoe Saldana* playing *Nina Simone*). What angers me is that although people clearly know that I 'm telling the **TRUTH** based upon **FACTS, FACTS, FACTS** and

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more **FACTS** they still lie and deny the existence of *darkism* while doing absolutely nothing about it.

One answer to why people lie and deny *darkism* is that many have perpetuated discrimination against dark skinned people themselves. As such many feel “*dark skinned guilt*” and don’t want to deal with it. Yet the *dark skinned guilt* still lurks in their souls. Refusing to deal with their *dark skinned guilt*, they attempt to silence my voice by lying on me, trying to bully me and using death threats against me. **NONE** of this will silence me. I will continue to speak the **TRUTH**, the whole **TRUTH** and nothing but the **TRUTH** so help me God. Not even death can stop me. You can help stop this foolishness. After you finish reading my book, email it or pass it on to someone else.

***Note: Rashida is available for Keynote speaking engagements and performances of the award-winning play a dark skin woman’s revenge. Visit [www.darkskinactivist.com](http://www.darkskinactivist.com)***

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## DARKISM IS REAL

Most of you reading this have probably never heard of the term *darkism* before Rashida Strober, the world's first dark skinned activist coined it. You're probably thinking, what in the world is *darkism*? *Darkism* is a term, that I coined in my work as the world's first dark skinned activist and I'm here to tell you folks, that it's real. *Darkism* is the discrimination of dark skinned people in all spheres of society (economics, politics, dating and marriage, etc) based upon the fact that a person is dark skinned. *Darkism* is not just an African-American phenomenon. *Darkism* is world-wide (Africa, India, Asia, Latin America and so forth). One of the biggest issues of *darkism* is the economic and political impact *darkism* has on the dark people of the world. An example of this can be found in my graduate thesis written on the impact of structural adjustment policies in Sierra Leone. A mainly, dark skinned country, Sierra Leoneans suffered severe economic and political oppression that led to civil war and later detrimental economic policies instituted by the *International Monetary Fund* and the *World Bank*. My thesis can be found in the archives of the University of South Florida, published in 2005.

Are you a *darkist*? Are you the victim of *darkism*? Ever experienced, noticed or perpetuated differential treatment based on the darkness of a person's skin? If you have experienced this type of treatment then you were the victim of *darkism*. If you inflicted this type of

treatment on someone else then you are a *darkist*. For those that have experienced *darkism* you are not alone and it's not in your head. *Darkism* is real and *darkists* exist world-wide. *Darkism* is the discrimination of a person based on the fact that they are dark skinned. A *darkist* is a person who discriminates against a person that is dark skinned. **A *darkist* can be any color, race or ethnicity.** A *darkist* can even be a dark skinned person who perpetuates *darkism* towards a fellow dark skinned person. In this book, you will learn of at least 25 ways that dark skinned people experience *darkism* perpetuated by *darkists* on a daily basis. The hope of this book is to create awareness that *darkism* exists and to find constructive ways in which to eradicate it.

*Darkism* especially rears its ugly head in popular culture and is ironically perpetuated by dark skinned people themselves. Think about it. How often do you hear a derogatory comment made about dark skinned people by another dark skinned person? Sometimes it's when you least expect it. For example, just the other day I was watching a reality TV show featuring one of my favorite girl groups from the 90s, when the dark skinned lead singer stated that she wanted to get out of the sun because she was already **black** enough. Go figure. A dark skinned person inflicting *darkism* upon their person. The irony is astounding. But let's be real about it. This is not an unusual occurrence. If you are dark skinned or black and you are reading this, you know that I'm not lying. *Darkism* happens on the low every day in schools, prisons, stores, jobs, churches, organizations and

families. *Darkism* is a worldwide institution of *darkist* behavior towards dark skinned people. Remember that *darkism* can be inflicted by any race, ethnicity or hue.

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## WHY THIS BOOK IS OF MONUMENTAL IMPORTANCE

With the exception of the great *Kola Boof*, before I came along, the truth is that NO ONE gave a real damn about dark skinned issues in general and dark skinned women's issues in particular. They were all afraid. They were scared of what people would think. They were scared of being called jealous. They were scared of being called a hater. I don't give a damn about any of that! When I say no one gave a damn I mean in the sense of committing themselves to dealing exclusively with dark skinned issues. You see that's what I do. I have been the dark skinned activist, inventing dark skinned activism in 1998. Since then I have gone on to write dark skinned books, produce dark skinned plays, provide original dark skinned commentary and carry out the actual consistent work of dark skin activism. This book you are reading now is a continuation of my work as the world's first dark skinned activist and inventor of dark skin activism.

*Darkism* is a huge problem all over the world. Its horrendous impact has spurred the billion dollar skin lightening industry. If you are a business person looking for a business that has a huge market then the skin lightening industry is one that is wide open. Sadly, the growth of the industry is predicated on the discrimination against being dark skinned. This book is badly needed to eradicate *darkism* world-wide so that the skin lightening industry goes out of business.

Another reason why this book is of monumental importance is because it deals with the self-esteem of

dark skinned people. Millions of dark skinned people world-wide have suffered low self –esteem due to the crushing blows of attacks on their dark skin tone. Dark skinned people are attacked on their looks purely on the basis of having dark skin. Some argue that it's not a person's dark skin that makes them ugly. They claim its other attributes like their features or their attitudes. The truth is that pretty dark skinned people, ugly dark skinned people, nice dark skinned people and mean dark skinned people are attacked for being dark skinned. This has led many dark skinned people to depression and low self-esteem.

***One of the most important reasons why this book is needed is because a book of this nature has never been written before. Darkism is breaking brand new ground as the first book of its kind.*** Many have refused to address the impact of attacks on their dark skin for fear of being ridiculed. People are not as sympathetic towards dark skinned people who complain about being abused for having dark skin. They are looked at as being jealous or complainers. One of the aims of this book is to expose *darkism* and to end the stigma of being a dark skinned person who has been abused because of their dark skin. With this groundbreaking book, the first of its kind, Rashida Strober, the world's first dark skin activist has courageously taken on the task of dealing with dark skinned discrimination head on.

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## WHO IS THIS BOOK FOR

This book is for anyone who has been a victim of *darkism* as well as for people interested in learning more about the experiences of what dark skinned people go through. More importantly, this book is for people interested in eradicating the problem of *darkism* world-wide. The following types of people will find this book especially beneficial for themselves and the populations they serve.

- 🚩 People & organizations interested in Booking Rashida Strober, the world's first dark skinned activist
- 🚩 Educators including teachers and professors
- 🚩 Social Workers & child advocates
- 🚩 Pastors
- 🚩 Non-Profit Organizations 🚩
- Bully Prevention Specialists 🚩
- All races of people
- 🚩 Teenagers
- 🚩 Juvenile Detention Administrators
- 🚩 Prison Administrators
- 🚩 Public Policy Makers
- 🚩 Women & Men's Groups
- 🚩 Youth Organizations
- 🚩 Any and all peace loving people



# **THE 25WAYS**

## 1. DARK SKIN WOMEN ARE JEALOUS, BITTER BITCHES

Some folks,.....especially some black folks swear up and down that dark skinned people are jealous of light skinned people. When I refer to light skinned people I am not just referring to light skinned black people. I am referring to anyone with light skin whether they be black, white, Hispanic or any race or ethnicity. If you are dark skinned you may automatically be seen as a hater of lighter skinned people, especially if you are dark skinned and female.

If I had a penny for every time I have been accused of being jealous of a light skinned person I would be rich. Two incidences stick out clearly in my mind. One was the time I was accused of being jealous of a distant light skinned family member at a family reunion. The other example was the time I was accused of wanting “*good hair*” like one of my lighter skinned relatives. I will never forget the day when out of the blue one of my light skinned family members told me that I was jealous of another light skinned family member. I was just 14 at the time. The person who I was supposedly jealous of was at least 3 years older than me. She was tall, light skinned, fashionable and very beautiful. Her beauty was evident to everyone in the family. Based upon societal definitions of beauty no one would deny that she was stunning. To this day she is still beautiful.

She never did anything bad to me. I never had a thing against her. In fact, I liked her for reasons that had absolutely nothing to do with skin color. She was calm, intelligent, kept to herself and was not the type of female who kept up drama. I’m not a conflict prone person. In fact, I hate conflict and so any person that has a non-conflictual nature I tend to like. It does not matter

what race they are. In fact, the thought of jealousy towards this person never crossed my mind. Besides, she and I rarely had any real meaningful interaction.

The person that accused me of being jealous was light skinned herself. This person told me to my face that I was jealous of the light skinned young lady in question. She gave no specific reason as to why. I now realize that some light skinned black people are intent upon creating rivalry and jealousy between light and dark skinned people where there is none. Some of them incorrectly assume that dark skinned people are jealous of them even if they are not. They incorrectly assume that dark skinned people want to look like light skinned people. For example, they may assume that a dark skinned person wants a light skinned person's skin tone or hair type. Many of these false assumptions stem from light skinned privilege and superiority that comes out of a system of racism/white supremacy. This experience also demonstrates the reality that many dark skinned people can't just "*be*." Many of us can't exist without false accusations of jealousy and hatred towards light skinned people of any race.

Even though the young lady who I was assumed to be jealous of has a similar personality as mine, I as the dark skinned person got accused of being a hater while she was able to live in her happy and carefree light skinned world. It's really sad because I was never jealous of her. What black people and all people need to understand is that *NOT ALL DARK SKINNED PEOPLE ARE JEALOUS OF LIGHT SKINNED PEOPLE*. False rivalries should not be created between dark and light skinned people based on the assumption that a dark skinned person is jealous of a light skinned person. The fact is that there are many dark skinned people who are

actually comfortable in their own skin. Yes! There are many dark skinned people who *LOVE BEING DARK SKINNED!*

I was totally shocked the day that I was accused of being jealous of the light skinned young lady in question. The scene has stayed with me since that day. My relationship has always been strained with my accuser. To this day I do not have many words for her. The person that accused me of being jealous of the light skinned female was at least 15 years older than me. Aside from my present understanding of how racism and *darkism* impacts a person's mind I still can't figure out what triggered her to speak the words out of her mouth. Perhaps she had experienced some form of conflict between herself and a dark skinned female and was projecting her harsh feeling onto me, a 14-year-old easy darkskinned target. I had no one to protect me from her harsh words since I was in her care, poor and dark skinned, having come from a very dysfunctional and disadvantaged background. This person had taken me in to live with her. When you are not someone's biological child, unfortunately, you are not always treated as good in many situations. You are fair game to the whims of the person's emotions and moods. As such, I suffered from what I call *dark skin mental abuse*.

I did not argue, fuss or fight with her. I was utterly confused. However, my story is not that different from many young people who suffer from the impact of *darkism* whether it be from family, a teacher or peers. They know that something is not right but may have difficulty articulating what has happened to them. For years they may suffer in an environment that despises their dark skin. The sad part is that while many dark skinned people are not jealous and the thought has not

crossed their mind, they become so antagonized by their accusers that some, in fact, take on the characteristics of being jealous of a light skinned person when in fact they were not, to begin with. For some, the accusations become internalized. Resentment may set in and skin tone conflicts abound.

**MESSAGE TO BLACK FOLKS:** Stop creating skin tone conflicts when there is none!! My advice to people that are quick to accuse a dark skinned person of being jealous of a light skinned person is to just stop it! Take a moment to realize that you may be projecting society's beliefs onto a person that has no intention of behaving in such a way. You need to look inward and examine your own thought patterns and beliefs before you open your mouth to be critical of a dark skinned person in relation to supposed jealousy of a light skinned person. As hard as it may be for some of you to believe not every dark skinned person is a hater or jealous of light skinned people.

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## 2. THE BLACK MAN'S WHORE: HOW NON-DARK WOMEN BENEFIT FROM DARK SKIN FEMALE OPPRESSION

Many of them came from the wombs of DARK SKINNED WOMEN! We bob our heads to their music, yet they don't like us. They despise the dark skinned woman, the mother of human civilization with pure passion! Without the dark skinned woman, there would be no black male swag. Without the dark skinned woman, there would be no black male sex appeal for all the women of the world to adore. Yet they betray us at every chance. They sell us out. They leave us broke down, beat down, busted and disgusted. To add insult to injury many of these black rappers and singers are notorious for loving dark skinned black female musical talent. They will take our talent, make themselves wealthy then marry a NON-DARK SKINNED WOMAN, PUTTING ALL THE WEALTH CREATED FROM THE AFFILIATION WITH DARK SKINNED FEMALE TALENT INTO NON-DARK HANDS. This is exploitation of the dark skinned female at its finest. All the while the non-dark skinned female benefactor is an accomplice. She rarely stands up for the dark skinned woman. She never turns down the spoils stemming from dark skinned female oppression. Shameful! Dastardly! *Darkism* at its finest!

*Kanye West* is an example of how black men love the musical genius of the dark skinned black woman and

uses it to enrich themselves and their non-dark wives. He loves *Lauryn Hill's* music. He used it as a sample in one of his songs, *All falls down*. He's publically praised *Lauryn Hill* on numerous occasions. He created wealth from using the sample of *Lauryn's* song. The wealth of which is now in the hands of *Kim Kardashian*, his non-dark skinned wife. *John Legend* is yet another dark skinned *Lauryn Hill* musical lover. He has proclaimed how she has inspired him on numerous occasions. Apparently, the inspiration did not extend to dating and marrying dark skinned. The beautiful dark skinned *Lauryn Hill* is a hot one I tell ya! *Nas* is another one that loves the musical talent of the great *Lauryn* yet the love did not extend to his marriage choice in terms of choosing a dark skinned mate. Before he became super famous *Jay-z* performed several hits with the dark skinned super talented *Foxy Brown* as well as the gorgeous beyond talented *Mary J. Blige*, yet we all know that he did not choose dark skin in the dating and marriage realm. I am well aware that the dark skinned women that I have mentioned may or may not agree with my stance. I'm cool with it either way because it really doesn't matter as I have stated nothing but pure facts. The fact is that most dark skinned women, whether they admit it or not are in some way impacted by *darkism*.

Too many dark skinned females have been and continue to be socially and economically oppressed. The black man's (*some, not all*) disdain for dark skinned women has created and perpetuated economic

development for non-dark women at the expense of dark skinned women. This has gone down unopposed for years with many black men, especially in the entertainment industry. Famous for absolutely nothing, *Kim Kardashian* has managed to capture their hearts and reap the economic rewards. The *Kim Kardashian* effect on many black men is telling. Their lust for *Kim Kardashian*, one of the most famous whores in the world, has caused her to make a very lucrative career of being one. We have self-hating black men to thank for putting her on the whoredom map (ex..Ray J, Reggie Bush and biggest of all Kanye West). A Dark skinned woman would never in a million years be able to make a multi-million dollar career of being a whore like *Kim Kardashian*. The dark skinned woman would be ridiculed by all races, reduced to trash and left in obscurity if she ever attempted to become the white man's whore in the same vein that *Kim Kardashian* became the black man's whore. The dark skinned woman certainly would not become world famous, on the cover of top magazines, talked about constantly on major media outlets, given a reality show and filthy rich for exemplifying whorish ways for the world to see. But then again, dark skinned women should be thankful. You are much better than that anyway. Why sell your soul to the devil to become an international whore?

*Eddie Murphy* has made *MILLION* dollar movies about a **FAT, DARK SKINNED WOMAN**. Paradoxically, he has been married to **multiple non-dark skinned women**, **placing the wealth created from the oppression of the**



***dark skinned woman as depicted in these movies, into the hands of non-dark skinned women.*** How about giving us dark skinned women some of that money *Eddie*? Hell, you have made millions off of our exploitation.

The women who are a part of this conspiracy to economically rob and oppress dark skinned women, are shameful, wicked, wretches of women. How could they stand by and watch their dark skinned sisters suffer oppression and not do anything about it? How could they stand by and reap the economic benefits and rewards that come as a direct result of dark skinned female oppression and do nothing about it? Some of them should be ashamed of themselves that they have no real talent to give to the world. Their main talent is in being born the right skin color. This has allowed many knowingly and unknowingly to take advantage of the sufferings of dark skinned women. Shameful!

There are many non-dark women that this does not apply to, the ones who have recognized dark skinned female oppression and done what they could to alleviate it. Shout out to you. I am speaking to the ones who sit by silently, enjoying the spoils of dark skinned female oppression without a word. I could have respect for them if they stood up and spoke out against dark skinned female oppression but too many simply have not. Many of these women are well aware of what their non-dark skinned privilege affords them and refuse to give it up. Many have attacked me on social media, angry at me for telling the hard core truth. Rashida

uncensored! They can be mad for days and the truth will still be the truth. Many are selfish co-conspirators in dark skinned female oppression along with those black men (not all) who despise dark skin. I don't need, nor do I want any of them ever speaking for me as an oppressed dark skinned woman. They can't speak for me. They're not qualified in the least.

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### 3.RATCHET, MANLY, UGLY & GHETTO DARKIES

You can be the nicest, kindest person on earth but if you are super dark skinned or even just regular dark skinned you by default get accused of being ugly, ghetto, manly (if you are female) and loud. Think about it for a minute. There are plenty of regular dark skinned women that you see on a daily basis walking down the street minding their business. Ask yourself how many times you have tried to avoid them because you had the pre-conceived notion that they were going to behave ratchetly. Be honest. How many times have you held a pre-conceived negative notion based on the fact that a person is dark skinned? That dark skinned person may have done nothing to warrant this type of thinking. All they had to do was be dark skinned. The mere fact that the person was dark skinned has led them to be stereotyped. The dark skinned person did not have to say one word. The proof of their ugliness, manliness, ghettoness and ratchetness was all in the skin tone.

**When it comes to who is considered ugly and pretty you can be as ugly, ghetto, ratchet and manly as you want, just don't be dark skinned with it.** Only NON-DARK SKINNED women who behave this way can still be seen as beautiful. I guarantee you that 99 percent of the time you will get a beauty pass if you are non-dark while acting with dastardly behavior. However, if you are dark skinned, ***your beauty is always in question*** no matter how you behave.

I have heard with my own ears dark skinned women referred to as every derogatory name under the sun. One of the most common derogatory labels is the manly label. Being called manly looking is a direct assault on the beauty of the dark skinned woman, the mother of

humanity. Ironically, many have proclaimed dark skinned women, the mother of humanity, to be the least feminine of all women because dark skin has been heavily associated with all things manly. Even shows like *Jerry Springer* love to feature dark skinned men dressed up like females getting into confrontations with those who thought they were female. It's rather sickening that dark skin female beauty has been associated with hardness, toughness, roughness and just plain old unladylike behavior. This is why shows like this have no problem putting dark skinned men pretending to be women in the spotlight. Even the pretty, petite dark skinned women are subjected to this stereotype. I know many dark skinned women who have strong facial features such as high cheek bones and a well-defined face. On NON-DARK SKINNED WOMEN of any race these facial features are seen as beautiful, trendy and cutting edge. Conversely, on dark skinned women the same features are viewed as **HARD, UGLY AND MANLY**.

Many people are in denial and angry at me for speaking the truth. They claim that I am crazy and that it's all just in my head. Some have even accused me of being on drugs which I have never touched in my life. *Darkism* is not in my head. I speak from experience. I have been told more than a few times that I look manly. When someone really wanted to attack my womanhood they would tell me that I looked manly. For any woman who wants to embrace her femininity in regards to her outer appearance being called manly looking is one of the worst attacks that you can inflict on a woman's self-esteem. These attackers are fully aware of this and that's why they have no problem using this vicious attack on a dark skinned woman. But to these haters, I am a beautiful black dark skinned woman **that God**

**created me to be.** God knew exactly what he was doing when he made dark skinned MEN and dark skinned WOMEN. No one can change the work of God ever. Not science, not society, not politics, not *darkism*. God never makes a mistake. All you *darkist* better understand that!

My great grandmother was a full blooded Indian. I say this not to brag or make myself less black. In fact, I hate when black people say “*I got Indian in my family,*” to gain cool points from other blacks or to make themselves appear less black or African. I tell you that my great grandmother is Indian because people in my family have told me that this is where I get my strong facial features like my high cheek bones and big, long, pointy, humpy nose from. I have seen pictures of my great grandma and they are right. We do have similar features. The irony is that these features on my Indian great grandma are seen as beautiful while these same features on me are seen as manly looking.

As black people, we all know the main reason why my Indian great grandma is seen as beautiful and I am seen as ugly even though we have the same features. It's the hair and skin texture but mainly the hair. My Indian great grandmother had super long “*good*” silky black hair. I have the same facial features as her except my skin is not the Indian dark skin type. It is regular dark skin. My hair is super nappy hair that does not hang down my back like my great grandmother. Therefore, I can't get away with these features being a regular dark skinned woman with nappy shorter hair. I am called ugly and manly yet my Indian great grandma is called beautiful. I have been ostracized many times by black people due to these features. The same features on non-dark skinned women are highly coveted for example in the modeling world. However, on regular dark skinned

females, these same features will get you bashed for years by many in the black community.

For years, I found myself going out of my way to dress in a certain way to make myself appear even more feminine. I have always loved clothes that fit comfortably but closely to my body and that accentuate my tall slender figure. Certainly, if I were a non-dark skinned woman small things like what I wear would not matter. However, in the *darkist* society that we live in a dark skinned girl gotta do what a dark skinned girl gotta do: fight for her feminine birthright.

The view that dark skinned women are ugly and manly is not a new phenomenon. Rather it is the incredulous legacy of slavery that has all but attempted to beat and strip dark skinned women of all their innate femininity. Slavery's legacy was to attempt to forever brand dark skinned women in particular as the ugliest women on the planet by attaching "manly" features to them thereby stripping them of their beauty bargaining power.

I am reminded of courageous, wonderful and beautiful dark skinned women like *Sojourner Truth* who was said to have a "manly" appearance. Some have even written that she was asked to prove that she was a woman. Perhaps this is what prompted her to challenge those who challenged her womanhood in her famous speech "*Ain't I a Woman.*" Fast forward to modern times and I am reminded of how the dark skinned female mantra of manliness has impacted dark skinned women attracting the opposite sex. I know of a specific situation regarding an acquaintance of mine who complained that her non-dark friend was ugly but was always getting the attention of men. My acquaintance was upset because to her she was clearly better looking

than her non-dark friend. Yet due to her friend's non-dark complexion she was almost always perceived as the attractive one.

I challenge you to take a deep look into yourself and examine your feelings and attitudes towards dark skinned women's femininity. Are you *darkist* in the sense of perpetuating the belief that dark skinned women are less feminine? Dig deep. Look at the actions of your family, friends, co-workers and people around you as it relates to dark skinned female beauty. The first step to getting to a solution to the problem is to acknowledge that the problem exists.

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#### 4 .WHO DOES THIS DARK SKINNED BITCH THINK SHE IS?

I was subbing in a high school class of 10<sup>th</sup> graders. The course was science. I can't remember which type of science. The regular teacher was there that day but for whatever reason, she had to have another teacher in the room so I obliged her. My hair was in a huge beautiful black Afro. Looking like *Stephanie Green*, one of the unsung heroines of *the Black Panther Party*, I was dark skinned, elegant and studious as usual! I took my seat at a table in the back of the classroom and settled in. The class was majority black. The teacher was a brown skinned black woman with permed straight hair. *She was the acceptable looking black woman*. She seemed pleasant enough, though. This is why I was surprised when she joined the students in laughter at a “**dark, nappy haired ugly joke**,” that one of the dark skinned boys suddenly launched at me. The dark skinned attack was sudden and swift. It took me off guard as the entire class erupted into boisterous laughter.

Of course, I kept it professional and just observed their buffoonery. In so many situations like this where I was attacked by being called black and ugly, I have continuously kept it professional. For many dark skinned people “*keeping it professional*” has become an art form when they are viciously attacked due to their skin tone. However, I was immensely pissed. What a stupid woman, I thought to myself! I mean seriously, a grown educated black woman laughing at another black woman being called black, ugly and nappy headed by a



darkskinned student. What a fool she was. Not only was she not worth my time, she was also a lost cause. That level of self-hate and stupidity in a person at that age is completely unsalvageable as far as I was concerned. She was way worse off than the dark skinned boy who launched the dark skinned attack. He was still young and not completely understanding the error of his young ignorant ways but the 30 something teacher should have known better.

The attacks did not stop after I became an American Government Professor at Saint Petersburg College. On the first day of school, an obese black female student asked me if I was the instructor. I said yes. She and her black male cohort walked out after I announced to the class that was primarily comprised of white students that I was the instructor. Another black female student gave me hell for no apparent reason from the start of the semester to the end. Ignoring such ratchet behavior, I continued to maintain fairness because she was a very good student. A white female student yelled at me, talked on her cell phone while I was lecturing, loudly talked to other students while I was lecturing and generally conducted herself in an ignorant manner. It got to the point where I called security to have her removed from the class after repeated attempts to correct her rude behavior.

The bottom line is that both the white woman and the black women were jealous. They could not stand to see a beautiful, young, intelligent, well-educated DARK SKINNED black woman with natural hair at the head of a

class. Never mind the hell I went through to get my graduate degree. Never mind the horrendous struggle of overcoming homelessness, abuse and a hellish childhood that I had gone through to get there. These jealous, evil, vindictive women saw none of that. They did not care. Their jealousy caused them to lash out at me because they felt that I was not good enough to be in the position of authority that I found myself in. My dark skinned, dreadlocked self, left them shocked and confused as to how or why I became their professor.

The hatred extended beyond the classroom when a non-dark skinned person in my family got wind of the fact that I had become a college professor. A family member of mine relayed to me that someone in my own family, so caught up in jealousy went so far as to search my background to find negative things against me as an instructor. I was shocked! Who in the hell wastes their valuable time like this I thought! The answer was clear. Vicious, jealous hateful people that believe that this dark skinned woman should stay in her lowly dark skinned place. I mean how dare I overcome a dysfunctional, impoverished upbringing! How dare this dark skinned *bitch* who was once homeless and exploited by older men become somebody! How dare this high school dropout obtain a Master's Degree in Political Science and go on to become a college professor! *Who does this dark skinned bitch think she is?*

I am supposed to be a statistic, a drug addict, a prostitute, in prison, a baby mama with 8 kids from 8 different baby daddies, on food stamps and welfare, or

an alcoholic. *Who in the hell does this dark skinned bitch think she is?* As my experience demonstrates the jealous, contempt and hate for me as a dark skinned female intellectual is very real. Many of the students were conditioned to believe that only a white male could teach them. They were openly defiant towards the idea of a dark skinned dreadlocked young professor teaching them anything. It was most certainly their loss.

On another note, I feel a great deal of empathy for many dark skinned school age children. *Darkism* in schools is an everyday occurrence in America. If I had a dollar for every time I heard a *darkist* joke I'd be filthy rich by now. The attacks go on mainly between children calling each other all types of names from "*blackie*" "*crunchy monkey*" "*gorilla*" "*spot*" and every other name imaginable. I have heard it all. The bottom line is that school can be a living hell for not just a dark skinned teacher but also a dark skinned child. The dark skinned jokes can crush the very soul and self-esteem of a child. The sad part is that **NO CHILD IS BORN A RACIST OR A DARKIST**. Children are taught racism and *darkism* by ignorant adults of all races such as the aforementioned *darkist* women who attacked me.

Children should never accept *darkism*. This is why I advocate that all *darkism* bullies be reported immediately. Kids don't have to take this foolishness lying down. File a bully report as quickly as possible. If you are a kid and you run into an ignorant teacher that does not want to listen to you then get your parents involved. Have them contact administration to formally

file a written official complaint. Go to the school board if you have to. Do whatever it takes. Just know you don't have to take this type of assault to yourself-esteem lying down.

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## 5. NO DARK SKINNED WOMEN ALLOWED

I grew up watching *BET*. Black Entertainment Television, otherwise known as *BET* has been known to showcase music videos devoid of dark skinned women. You would think that dark skinned women would have a home on a network with the name *BET* which stands for *BLACK ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION*. However, this is not the case. Unless you have a big butt, can look and act thugged out, can be a side chick or otherwise play a derogatory role you clearly have no real place as a viable and respectable lead in music videos appearing on *BET* or as a host on *BET*. In fact, I can count the number of dark skinned female hosts on *BET* on one hand. There are some exceptions to the dark skinned female boycott. Dark skinned singers like *India Arie*, *Lauryn Hill*, *Jennifer Hudson* and *Fantasia* were able to escape this fate. The main reason is due to them being singers which make them by default the lead in their music videos. In recent times *BET* is trying to get better about *darkism*. They have tried to redeem themselves with shows featuring classy dark skinned leads like the gorgeous *Gabrielle Union*, the beautiful *Brandy*, and the stunning *Kelly Roland*. However, the legacy of the dark skinned female boycott on this network can never be forgotten. At least it is forever cemented in my psyche.

I argue that *BET* as well as numerous producers and other creative people who are a part of the music video process have perpetuated *darkism* and are in fact *darkist*. This is not to say that other networks aren't

*dark* is as well. The reason I focus on *BET* is because they cater to black people. Therefore, I hold them to a different standard of responsibility. For years light skinned women have been preferred as not only video vixens and leading ladies but also as hosts on *BET*. The last time I saw a really dark skinned, kinky haired woman as a host of a music show on *BET* was back in the 1990s. Her name was *Malonda*. She hosted two shows called *Out the Box* and another called *NEXT*. Both shows lasted for a short period and featured mostly eclectic/alternative music by emerging artists. I find irony in the fact of having a dark skinned woman host such music video shows. Not that there is anything wrong with the type of shows she was hosting. However, why not allow her to host a mainstream show like lighter skinned hosts such as *Sherry Carter*, *Rocsi*, *Julissa* and *Ananda Lewis*? Too dark skinned huh? But like I said *BET* has gotten better over the years in showcasing dark skinned women. However, the fact remains *BET* still has lots of work to do.

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## 6. TOO DARK SKINNED FOR ELITE STATUS

The historical mistreatment of dark skinned people provides a window into how dark skinned people have been traditionally denied elite status. This has much to do with the skin tone stratification resulting from slavery, thereby denying advantages and privileges based on darkness or lightness of skin tone. Slavery provides numerous examples of light skinned slaves also known as mulattoes being treated better than dark skinned slaves. After slavery, mulattoes became the pseudo, “*black*” elite. Within their pseudo black elite status history proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that mulattoes discriminated against dark skinned blacks with the creation of things like the *brown paper bag test* and exclusive societies many of which excluded dark skinned people.

A member of the black elite, author, *Lawrence Otis Graham* in his book *Our Kind of People: Inside America's Upper Class* gives tons of examples of how non-dark skinned black people discriminated against their darker brothers and sisters. Further, *Wallace Thurman's* classic 1929 groundbreaking book *The Blacker the Berry* details the struggles of a dark skinned young woman discriminated against by non-dark skinned black people throughout her life in the areas of jobs, schooling, dating and social circles. Scholars like *Dr. Margaret Hunter* has devoted much of her research to showing how light skinned black women are more favored over dark skinned women in various socio-economic areas. A

recent *New York Times* study proved that school-aged dark skinned girls are punished more harshly than their non-dark peers. A recent *Villanova University* study proved that dark skinned women get longer prison sentences than their non-dark counter parts. *THE EVIDENCE IS OVERWHELMING.* Dark skinned discrimination can hamper a dark skinned person's ability to move up the social ladder. This is being done through the criminalization and rejection of dark skin. In America criminalization goes hand in hand with social status rejection. How can a dark skinned person improve their lot in life if they are constantly being criminalized or rejected?

*WEB Dubois's* coining of the phrase the *talented tenth* is telling of the dark skinned socio-economic situation. Dark skinned people were mainly excluded from the so-called talented tenth. *WEB Dubois* himself was not a dark skinned man. In stark contrast, the great dark skinned *Marcus Garvey* was a pioneer in the dark skinned equality struggle. He was one of the first to boldly articulate how dark skinned people in black organizations had been ostracized for years. In fact, there are plenty of instances of the marginalization of dark skinned people to be seen in organizations like the *Black Panther Party* and the *NAACP*. ***The non-dark leaders of these organizations are better known than the dark skinned leaders.*** The great dark skinned *Marcus Garvey* criticized the *NAACP* for their color struck policies in deciding who would be on the front lines of the organization.



An example of Civil Rights organizations' color struckness is that of ***Claudette Colvin***. She refused to give up her seat to a white person months ***BEFORE Rosa Parks*** did. Yet *Claudette Colvin* was not given credit by the leaders of the Civil Rights movement. The people running the movement felt that *Rosa Parks* was better suited to be the front woman for the struggle. Many have made the lack luster excuse that *Ms. Colvin* was a pregnant teenager while *Rosa Parks*, a married woman in her 40s was more suitable. This is nothing short of an excuse to rob the **DARK SKINNED** *Claudette Colvin* of her rightful elite status in history. The fact is that *Claudette Colvin* refused to give up her seat to a white person ***before Rosa Parks*** did and should be given credit. No debating. **I'm glad that I don't need permission from colorstruck black people to give Ms. Colvin her credit.** In addition, I find it sad and ridiculous on the part of black people that it took a Caucasian author to write about *Ms. Colvin* and expose the world to the truth of the fact that she gave up her seat ***before Rosa Parks*** did. Author, *Phillip Hoose*, in his groundbreaking book *Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice* reveals the true mother of the Civil Rights Movement. ***We should all tell our kids the truth!! The history books need to be updated!! The school courses need to be updated!!!! Claudette Colvin is the real and true mother of the Civil Rights Movement!!!! You tell them Rashida Strober, the dark skinned activist said so!!!!!!***

The message is clear. Dark skinned people will either have to work extremely harder than other hues to

attain elite status or be denied it all together. I know of a dark skinned woman who fought for hers. I, like her choose to fight for my elite status and as such will accept nothing less. *Madam CJ Walker* is the great dark skinned female millionaire. She made her millions through providing a solution to hair care for black women. She worked extremely hard and that's why I was enraged when I read about how she kept trying to get *Booker T. Washington*, who was married to THREE non-dark skinned women during his life, to allow her to speak on black economics at major conventions that he presided over. In fact, his second wife, *Margaret Murray Washington's* father was of Irish descent. In light of this, I'm not surprised that *Booker T. Washington* refused to allow the dark skinned *Madam CJ Walker* to speak at numerous conventions that he presided over. He gave her the cold shoulder many times before the great Madam finally took to the stage without his permission in 1912 at the *National Negro Business League* meeting in Chicago.

My intuition tells me that Mr. Washington's cold shoulder had a lot to do with the fact that the great *Madame CJ Walker* was dark skinned. Dark skinned women like her are consistently having to carve out a lane for themselves. I would argue that this is the case with *Oprah* as well. The dark skinned *Oprah Winfrey* created her lane. Other examples abound. The dark skinned *Whoopie Goldberg* created her own lane. The dark skinned *Mary McLeod Bethune* created her own lane. The dark skinned *Harriet Tubman* created her own

lane. The dark skinned *Lauryn Hill*, the most talented female singer/rapper/ musician to walk the earth created her own lane. The dark skinned *Williams sisters* created their own lanes. Clearly, dark skinned women must always create their own lanes if they are to attain any level of elite social status. If you are a dark skinned woman or girl reading this I want to make sure that you understand that you have to create your own lane! You can do it!

Back to the great dark skinned *Madam CJ Walker*. During the time *Madame CJ Walker* was trying to convince *Booker T. Washington* to allow her to speak she was already a millionaire. How dare *Booker T. Washington* not allow her to speak!! Being a self-made millionaire was not enough. She was too dark skinned! This example shows what dark skinned people know to be generally true. If you are dark skinned you better be the best at what you do if you want to be recognized for it. Even when you are the best you still may have to struggle to get your place at the table especially and sadly among your own black people. Otherwise, your deserved elite status could elude you just by virtue of you having darkskin.

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## **7. BIG BLACK BAD ATTITUDE**

If you are dark skinned you better smile big and be overly nice to everyone you meet. Trust me. I learned this the hard way but I will tell you about that later. If you are DARK SKINNED and you don't smile, you might get accused of having a bad attitude. Please note that this designation may not have anything to do with you having an actual bad attitude. It's all about you being DARK SKINNED. As a dark skinned person, you can't just have a regular expression on your face like everyone else. You have to keep smiling. So make sure you show those pearly whites. Make sure you're always happy, even when your heart is in pain or you're having a bad day. You are dark skinned. You don't get a pass.

The lack of a smile on my face 24 hours a day with the combination of being dark skinned proved to be detrimental to my economic wellbeing. I remember when I got fired from a retirement home for not smiling at all times. Smiling at all times was not a part of the job description. I was totally devastated and confused as hell. I had been told on several occasions by my white supervisor that I was doing a great job. He loved the fact that I was a hard worker, friendly, always showed up on time and in general did a great job. That's why I was shocked a few days later after serving lunch to the residents I was told by the same supervisor that I was fired for not smiling enough. I was 18 when this happened. Let me tell you something folks. I never forgot that.

Let me give you some historical backdrop. I live in Saint Petersburg, Florida, a city that has a history of racist/*darkist people* expecting to see black people in the image of the *always happy negro*, ready to serve white people at a moment's notice. It's a premise based on slavery that is present in Saint Petersburg to this very day in the interactions between blacks and whites. I'm still haunted by that slave like experience on that job. In regards to any job that I've had after that experience, in the back of my mind lurks the possibility that if I don't come across as friendly and smiley as possible I might get fired. I have witnessed other dark skinned people get accused of not being friendly or of having a bad attitude for the mere fact that they did not wear a constant smile on their face. It saddens me sometimes when I look at nice, normal dark skinned children and realize that they too might be judged as having a bad attitude one day and fired from their job for not smiling enough. White and non-dark skinned people do not have to worry about the smiling issue to the level that a dark skinned person does. I have seen many non-smiling non-dark people get passes on jobs for their lack of smiles and friendly demeanor. Of course, this is not fair. However, nothing is fair in life when you are dark skinned.

***Note: Rashida is available for Keynote speaking engagements and performances of the award-winning play a dark skin woman's revenge. Visit [www.darkskinactivist.com](http://www.darkskinactivist.com) [www.rashidastrober.com](http://www.rashidastrober.com)***

## 8. BLACK, UGLY & BROKE..... WITH BAD CREDIT

If you're dark skinned and your name is not *Oprah* many assume that you're broke. It's not fair but at the same time it's not difficult to understand why. The world has done an excellent job of not only denying most dark skinned people wealth but constantly showcasing wealth and prosperity as only for the non-dark skinned. Africa is proof of this. Africa, home to the largest population of dark skinned people on the planet is continuously shown to the world as poor and underdeveloped. The same media that produces these images shows non-dark skinned people in a prosperous light. Don't believe me? Just look at TV. Watch how most of the commercials and television shows feature non-dark hued people having fun and enjoying the fruits of their wealth. Go into any wealthy neighborhood in the United States as a dark skinned person and see how fast people look at you like why is he/she here? Be careful. They may even call the police on you. Your only crime was being dark skinned.

There is an unspoken rule created in America that the darker you are the more likely you are to be broke. Not only is the perception created that dark skinned people are broke, it's also an orchestrated reality. **This reality is due to the denial of adequate opportunities for economic development. Jobs discriminate against dark skinned males and females alike.** I know this first hand. I worked as a recruiter for a Los Angeles based company called *Facter Direct (Donor Services Group)*. I saw first- hand how this company discriminated against

dark skinned people in hiring and promotion. The manager would tell me not to hire certain types of people. The people that they were referring to were almost always dark skinned people. The policies towards the dark skinned people that were employed with the company were often not applied in the same fashion as they were to the non-dark employees. For example, there was the case of a dark skinned woman who took a leave of absence. The company's policy was that if the person's file said that they were eligible for re-hire then that person would be re-hired. **This particular dark skinned woman's file said that she was eligible for re-hire yet they refused to hire her while re-hiring white people whose file said that they were not eligible for re-hire. Is this fair? No!** I fought hard for this young lady to be re-hired based on *Facter Direct's* own policy which clearly stated that she was eligible for re-hire. However, I was told flat out by my supervisors not to re-hire her.

Another example is how this same employer, *Facter Direct*, underpaid me. This is something that happens to a lot of black people in general on jobs. A black person could have way more education or experience than a white person, yet the white person is paid more. This is one of the worst types of economic atrocities inflicted on black people in general and dark skinned people in particular. It is also one major reason why many dark skinned black people remain at the bottom of the economic barrel. ***Systemic economic darkism*** at its finest. I have a Master's Degree. Neither of my white supervisors had a Master's degree yet they were paid

more than me. We all did the same work. In addition, we were all to be paid bonuses based upon the number of people we hired. This fact was kept from me for months, thereby denying me money that I was entitled to based on bonuses that I should have received.

While many (not all) at this job had a disdain for dark skin they also secretly loved dark skin. You see some people have a love/hate relationship with dark skin. One day out of the blue my pale skinned white supervisor told me that her husband told her (while they were lying in bed) that my dark skin so was beautiful. She went on for at least 10 minutes describing how her husband adored my dark skin. I could tell she was bothered by this in the way that she spoke about it. However, she seemed to want to get it off her chest. She, like her husband was clearly intrigued by me but she hated and admired me at the same time. She always commented on my smooth, flawless dark skin and natural sister locked hair while condemning her own skin as too pale and in need of a tan. However, she was also very nasty to me. She reminded me of how white women treated their black female slaves whom they were aware of or suspected their husbands of having an affair with. In fact, she had a split personality. On some days she was nice. Then suddenly she would turn into a nasty, vindictive person. She was on some type of medication for some sort of mental issues. Perhaps this had much to do with it. However, out of her envy and hatred for my dark skin, she would attempt to find things wrong with my work. She would blame me for her



mistakes. She was clearly a sick person. Her overzealous behavior was built on pure envy of the fact that I was richly dark skinned. This fueled her vicious actions towards me. I eventually sued the company. They offered me a mere \$2000 dollar settlement. It was never about money. It was always about my defense of **all black people** at this job, trying to protect them from *Facter Direct's* discriminatory practices.

At least one person at *Facter Direct* was aware of what dark skinned women faced. There was a particular supervisor who seemed to walk on egg shells when around me. He always seemed to be careful about what he said around me. One day he was telling me about a party he was going to after work. It was Friday and he was excited! In his happy hysteria, he began singing *Kanye West's Golddigger*. When he got to the part where the song said “ *and when he get on he leave yo ass for a white girl,*” he suddenly stopped and apologized to me.

It was not just the white people that were *darkist* at this job, it was black people as well. Some black people can't stand to see a dark skinned person in a position that they perceive to be powerful. I was in a position where I interviewed and hired people. I took pride in the fact that I hired ANY PERSON that had the qualifications to do the job. I took pride in the fact that I never ever discriminated against anyone. To this day I am pleased with myself for being extremely fair to all people. I will never forget the day that I interviewed a non-dark skinned black woman. From the moment she realized

that she was to be interviewed by me, a dark skinned black woman, she projected a nasty attitude towards me. I completely ignored her nasty attitude and focused on whether or not she could do the job. She was more than qualified so I offered her the job. Even after I offered her the job she was extremely nasty towards me. I could clearly see this in her tone, body language, and actions. She declined the job offer. Perhaps this was her power move against me. It was clear that she declined the job offer because it was offered to her by a dark skinned woman whom she thought was beneath her. Body language and behavior told it all. Even though I had hired her based on her qualifications and overlooked her nasty attitude this hateful, jealous woman just could not stand the fact that a dark skinned woman was in a position of power to hire her. *Darkism* at its finest.

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## 9. BIG BLACK THIEF

Black men yall are by no means the only ones viewed as violent and criminal. Dark skinned women get it too. Some white people actually think this dark skinned woman is going rob them. Though some wish they had smooth ever youthful looking skin like mine, they also see my dark skin as threatening. A paradox indeed. I was in a very popular Florida supermarket with a client of mine helping him shop. I walked up to the freezer section to get a TV dinner for him like a normal person would when suddenly an ignorant white woman looked at me with a scared, angry look. By the looks of her, I should have been the one scared. She was not well dressed. Her hair was not combed. She looked ragged. I was dressed nicely. My hair was neatly twisted. My skin was on point, smooth, clean and clear. Yet, she had the audacity to be so-called afraid of me. In another instance I was getting into my car like a normal person leaving a shopping mall would when a white woman parked next to me looked at me like I was going to steal her purse. She got into her car super fast as if she was the most terrified person on earth! I looked at her and laughed. Stupid *darkist*!

I got into an elevator in a very wealthy neighborhood called *Tierra Verde* to go meet my client downstairs. He had forgotten his sunglasses and had asked me to run back upstairs to his condo to get them. A white man in the elevator asked me what I was doing in the elevator. His attitude was that I clearly should not

have been there. He proceeded to ask me probing questions like many white people do when they are suspicious of you. The experience was draining. There I was trying to assist my sick client and ended up in an elevator being interrogated by a *darkist*. What a complete waste of time and energy on his part.

A friend of mine who was sickly asked me to clean her house one day. She lives on the north side of Saint Petersburg where the population is mostly white. As soon as I got out of my car to go to her apartment I was accosted by a tall white man who I later found out was the manager. In a very disrespectful tone, he asked what I was doing there. He and I got into an argument. I told him this was not the days of slavery. He told me that he had the right to ask me what I was doing on the property which I found strange because the property was not gated. Anyone could walk onto the property. There was no security. He was plain clothed. I was not doing anything illegal. I had been to the property multiple times. There was no reason to interrogate me. His problem was that he was a *darkist*.

Previously I talked about how dark skinned people are generally assumed to be broke. One place that this assumption plays out is in stores. The assumption that a dark skinned person is broke goes hand in hand with the assumption that because they're broke they are also thieves. I can't tell you how many times I have walked into stores as a dark skinned black woman only to be followed around by some *darkist* idiot employee. One incident comes to mind that took place about 2 years

ago. I went to a well-known drug store at around 5:30 in the morning before going to work. As soon as I walked into the store I noticed an overweight white man in his fifties that looked like the manager. He appeared on every isle that I was on. This was no coincidence folks. I roamed around the store continuing to shop and tried to ignore him. However, he would not stop following me. I confronted him. He claimed that he was not following me. I argued with him while he stood there looking embarrassed and stupid. He was guilty of *darkism*.

## 10. TOO DARK FOR GOOD CUSTOMER SERVICE

They're so kind to the non-dark....holding doors, saying hello, giving great customer service, showing favoritism on jobs, I could go on all day...but I won't because if you are a dark skinned person reading this then you know the deal when it comes to customer service. **I don't care where I am some darkist idiot always feels the need to be disrespectful.** This has happened with whites, blacks and all races in between. This is the main reason why I absolutely HATE shopping! For example, I was in a store one day. The black female cashier in this store happily greeted the white man in front of me. She was cordial and smiling the whole time while ringing up the white guy's order. As soon it was my turn her smile turned to a frown and a forced *may I help you*.

**Black people do this all the time to other black people. They will go out of their way to be nice to white people or non-black people. They will smile with them, laugh and in general be extremely pleasant. THEY WILL THEN TURN AROUND AND TREAT ANOTHER BLACK PERSON, ESPECIALLY A DARK ONE LIKE PURE FECES!** Their behavior is absolutely despicable to say the least! REPULSIVE! LOATHSOME! HORRENDOUS! EVIL! DETESTABLE! ABHORRENT! HEINOUS! ABOMINABLE! CONTEMPTIBLE! ODIIOUS! VILE! IGNOMINIOUS! SHAMEFUL! BEASTLY! DISREPUTABLE! SHABBY! LOW! ABJECT! MEAN! LOWDOWN! ROTTEN! ATROCIOUS! NAUSEATING! HATEFUL! DISGRACEFUL!

OFFENSIVE! MONSTROUS! DISHONORABLE!  
INIQUITOUS! WRETCHED! REPREHENSIBLE! NEFARIOUS!  
DEPLORABLE! NASTY! FOUL! IMMORAL! VICIOUS!  
VILLAINOUS! NOXIOUS! DAMAGING! DESTRUCTIVE!  
PERNICIOUS! TOXIC! POISONOUS! REVOLTING!  
GHASTLY! APPALLING! DETRIMENTAL!

When *darkist* idiots like her do this to me I become very sarcastic with a big “**HIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII!!! HOW ARE YOU DOING TODAY???????**” This usually catches the *darkist* off guard. The *darkist* usually becomes very confused, showcasing a nervous smile. They are baffled as to how to deal with me. I have fun with it and keep taunting them with extreme overly sarcastic kindness. By the time I’m through with them they are totally perplexed. They also know that I know their nasty little game of *darkism* and that I’ve beaten them at it!

It's a shame that I as a dark skinned person have to come up with so many mental strategies to survive in such a *darkist* world. ***It's even more of a shame that black people inflict this type of mental and emotional pain onto other black people.*** However, when I have worked in any type of service job I have made it my business not to inflict onto others what has been inflicted on me. I just wish that ALL people would have respect for ALL people and treat people the same regardless of skin tone. A person cannot in any shape, form or fashion help what skin tone they are born with. Only God controls it. In this vein, if you hate a person because of skin tone you definitely have something

wrong with you on a mental, spiritual and emotional level.

As a dark skinned woman I despise most restaurants. I don't care if its black owned, white-owned, Asian-owned or purple-owned!!! They all have one thing in common. *THEY DO NOT KNOW HOW TO TREAT MOST DARK SKINNED PEOPLE*. They treat many dark skinned people like pure trash when it's time to serve them. Many restaurant workers don't feel the need to extend the same level of great customer service to dark skinned people. I can't tell you how many times I have seen black, white, Hispanic and all colors and hues of employees treat dark skinned people with much less great customer service than a white man, white woman or non-dark skinned person. If you are dark skinned you might not get that friendly "*hello*", "*how are you*" or fast courteous customer service. Instead, you are more likely to get the cold shoulder or the look of indifference.

I am reminded of a restaurant that recently opened in the city that I live in, St Petersburg, Florida. After the treatment I received I vowed to never set foot in that place again and I have not. The horrendous part about it was the fact that it is **black owned**. The most painful form of *darkism* is the one perpetuated by **black people**. I walked my dark skinned self along with my dark skinned son and dark skinned daughter into the restaurant. We were greeted with a stale half *hello* by of all people, a **black woman**. In a cold manner, she told us to sit and wait until a table opened up. I then watched in awe as a lighter hued couple came in about 15 minutes



after me. The woman's attitude was a complete 360 from her attitude with me and my DARK SKINNED family. She was smiling, accommodating and chatty. More importantly, the lighter hued couple was seated almost immediately upon walking in. Stunned, I got up and walked out. I mean hey, why waste my money and time on a *darkist* establishment. The saddest part about this whole exchange is that the rude hostess herself was **dark skinned**. But really, why should I be surprised. Unfortunately, many times a dark skinned person will discriminate against another dark-skinned person faster than a person of another hue.

I remember a dark skinned young Jamaican woman at a local Jamaican restaurant in my city. This was back in 2000 before I became consciously able to articulate *darkism* in the form that I do now. I remember how this dark skinned young woman was very, very, veeeeeeeeeeery nasty to me and other black customers. She was rude, short tempered and clearly ready to hurry up and get us out of her face. However, with the white customers, she was patient, smiling and kind. I can honestly say that I was never rude to her, in fact, I always said hello. I also never saw other black people be rude or mean to her yet she chose to be nasty to people of her own color. Even with this horrendous treatment, I stupidly continued to patronize this restaurant, spending my hard earned money. Looking back I realize just how idiotic it was to continue to go to a place and spend my money where I was being treated less than human. I'm a different person today. I DON'T TAKE CRAP FROM

ANYONE WHEN IM SPENDING MY MONEY! I will never tolerate that type of disrespect again in my life!

Recently, I went to a Chinese restaurant to pick up lunch for a homebound family member who loves herself some Chinese food. There were three people in the line, myself and two people in front of me. I was clearly in line behind the two people. We were in line for at least 5 minutes before a short, fat white man walked in. The man did not get in line behind me. He stood on the side of me. When it was my turn the Chinese woman overlooked me. She was well aware that I was next in line, yet she took the white man's order before mine. As if the short, fat, white guy was not there I walked in front of him and began letting the Chinese woman know that I had placed a phone order and was next in line. While halfway listening to me she continued taking the white man's order anyway. **I WALKED OUT**. Because my order was a call-in order they had my phone number on their caller ID. The Chinese lady called my phone several times. I did not answer.

## 11. TOO DARK TO GET A MASTER'S DEGREE

I'm a dark skinned, nappy headed female with a Master's Degree. DEAL WITH IT! This is what I feel like telling people who look at me and judge me, thinking I'm ignorant for no other reason than me being a dark skinned black woman. It was not easy to get myself into the Master's Degree Program at the University of South Florida. I had a lot of opposition. I was the only black female in the political science program for a long time. When I did run into a female that had some black in her she was very light skinned and spoke of the ease with which she was able to enter the program. I would also hear the other non-dark skinned non-black females speak of their ease of getting admission into the program. They often spoke of the help they received from professors. EASY, EASY, EASY was the word of the day for these non-dark skinned and non-black women. As for my dark skinned self, it was a fight! As for my dark skinned self, nothing and I mean nothing has ever been easy for me in this life.

After getting a rejection letter from the University of South Florida I came storming through the political science office demanding that I be let into the program because I was **more than qualified based on their criteria!** I was super pissed that day! Angry is not a strong enough word to denote how I felt that day! Suddenly, a short pecan brown dark skinned lady walked out of her office to see what all the commotion was. She immediately walked up to me, touched my arm and told

me in a cool, calm and collected voice to calm down. I couldn't help but simmer down at the sight of her demeanor. She whispered her request to me which instantly caused me to stop and pause to hear what she was saying. That woman understood what dark skinned people went through. I could feel it.

I calmed down and listened to her instructions. I did exactly what she told me to do and about a month later I was given admittance into the Master's Political Science Program on a conditional basis. Although I thought being allowed into the program on a conditional basis was a complete insult to my proven academic record of well over a 3.0 GPA, shortly after, I entered the program anyway. I had to maintain a B average during the first semester to become an official graduate student in the program. I did so with ease.

I will never forget how the non-dark non-black women in a very important class I had to take to graduate tried their best to make me fail group assignments that also had individual grades attached to them. Those vile women would do things like changing the meeting place of our group meetings at the last minute without notifying me. They would communicate with each other and make decisions without me. One of them would purposely fling her hair too near my face. This went on for a while until one day I got tired of her purposeful rudeness. One day we got into it. I told her off, letting her know how rude she was. She stopped. I realized that some non-dark non-black women think that all black women want hair that is similar to theirs

but not me. I wore a variety of natural styles during graduate school like an afro, braids, and sisterlocks. The heffa was intimidated because she saw a black, dark skinned woman that was not trying to copy her hairstyle. Her response was passive aggressive behavior.

When it came time to graduate I was better than them, smarter than them and faster than them. I did not have to tell them this. My actions said it all. Most of them were accepted into the Master's program way before I was but I beat them to the graduation finish line. Despite the ignorant behavior that I had to endure, I finished before most of them. I worked my butt off! I studied all the time. No partying. No playing games. It was always business for me. I had no choice. I was dark skinned. I had to work harder than the rest. It may sound outrageous to some but this is the type of dark skinned discrimination that *some* dark skinned people live through on college campuses on a daily basis. I survived and if you are going through this right now so can you. Never let anyone stop you from achieving your goals and dreams due to their stupidity, ignorance, and *darkism*. ***If you persevere you will win!*** One of my favorite biblical quotes is *Ecclesiastes 9:11* which says “ *The race is not given to the swift or the strong but to those who endure to the end.*”

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## 12. DARK SKINNED HARRASMENT & SOCIAL MEDIA BULLYING

The bullies of dark skin want to silence me. They are jealous and intimidated by my boldness. Speaking out on dark skinned discrimination gets you labeled all kinds of nasty names. From being called a jealous hater to a race divider I have been called every name in the book. People can say what they want, however, they know the dark skin discriminatory experience is real. But for many their dark skinned guilt won't allow them to acknowledge the truth. Many don't want to acknowledge the privilege that non-dark people and non-dark black people enjoy. When they see and hear a person like me speaking boldly on dark skinned discrimination it forces them to deal with the reality of *darkism*. What they really hate is that I speak on dark skinned discrimination *the Rashida way*. You can't censor me. You can't bully me. You can't bring me down to your level. You can't control my thought process. I do it my way and this is what they really can't stand.

Many of the people that attack me for speaking out on dark skinned discrimination have themselves discriminated against dark skinned people. The *darkist* could be any ethnicity, race or color. Many have dark skinned people in their families. They may have perpetuated dark skinned discrimination against them. Many of these people have watched silently as dark skinned people in their families have been discriminated against time and again. They have stood by and done

nothing. When a dark skinned person like me speaks out on the dark skinned discrimination issue it inflames their guilt. Instead of acknowledging the issue and dealing with it head on, many of them become angry and defensive. I have asked myself time and again how could a person see these acts of dark skinned discrimination take place right before their eyes and deny it.

I have received **6 death threats** since my journey as the ***WORLD'S FIRST DARK SKINNED ACTIVIST AND INVENTOR OF DARK SKIN ACTIVISM***. I have received tons of hate mail. I have lost friendships. I have lost relationships with family members. I have been called an intra-race divider. I have been called the black Hitler. I have been called ugly, manly, stupid, ignorant, a bitch, a whore, animal, monkey, a drug addict and every other derogatory name in the book by all colors of people for simply speaking unapologetically on what every black person knows to be true: dark skinned discrimination aka *darkism*.

They are intimidated. The enemy will do anything they can to silence my voice. ***BUT THEY CAN'T***. In an effort to silence my voice I have been reported on social media sites like *FACEBOOK*. *Facebook* has in effect infringed on my free speech by constantly blocking me from posting. I find their actions to be unconstitutional and horrendous at best. How can *Facebook* block me from posting when they allow pornographic images on their website? How can *Facebook* block me from posting and infringe on my free speech when I have seen racist

posts against black people on *Facebook* numerous times? How can *Facebook* block me from posting but do nothing about the death threats that I have reported to them? How can *Facebook* stop me from posting but do nothing about my log in account security being compromised? *Facebook* can't stop me nor can any other social media website stop me from carrying out the work of dark skinned activism. I have been the dark skinned activist from a grassroots level *WAY BEFORE FACEBOOK OR ANY OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA*. I will continue my work with or without *Facebook*. If you are a *Rashida Strober* hater reading this or one that has reported one of my posts you can go straight to hell because you can never stop me. You are a coward! You are ignorant. You are evil and just plain old stupid to think that you could stop a movement that I built from the ground up. There are many ways for *Rashida Strober*, ***THE WORLD'S FIRST DARK SKINNED ACTIVIST*** to continue my activism. Dark skinned activism itself is now cemented in historical stone. The history has already been made. Only God can stop it!

By the way, I'd like to thank those ignoramuses at *Facebook* for blocking me. I'd like to thank the coward/cowards that reported me as well. While on block from *Facebook* it gave me more time to focus without distraction on the completion of this very book, ***MY FOURTH DARK SKINNED BOOK***, which gives me and other dark skinned people even more intellectual ammunition to fight *darkism*. **BOOM SHAKALAKA BOOM!**



*Facebook* and other social media sites are a haven for dark skinned female bashing. I cannot tell you the number of times that dark skinned people in general and dark skinned women in particular, have been bullied and taunted for being dark skinned on social media. Social media avenues have opened up a new lane for *darkist* to espouse *darksim* for the entire world to see. On a weekly basis, I run into a story or someone sends me a story about a dark skinned person being the victim of *darkism*. Recently, a *Facebook* friend sent me the story of a dark skinned young woman who participated in a social media video about ex-boyfriends and girlfriends. After the video was released the dark skinned young lady was called every derogatory name in the book on social media. Names such as monkey, ape and gorilla were used to describe this young lady. The saddest part was that these taunts came from way too many black people to count. The fact is that black people can be among the biggest *darkist* on the planet.

Multiple fans flooded my inbox and email with the story of Brazil's first dark skinned carnival queen, *Nayara Justino*, who was ridiculed on social media for no other reason than being dark skinned. She was even stripped of job opportunities after the nasty social media reaction to her being dark skinned. There are many *Facebook* groups out there dedicated to bashing dark skinned women like her. In addition, it's no surprise to see a dark skinned woman in a news feed or timeline post on *Facebook* being demeaned for being dark skinned. Social media has allowed black people and

other races to expose the *darkism* that's been going on in the black community since the end of slavery. While sickening and embarrassing it's also finally bringing to attention an issue that needs to be dealt with head on in the black community. All races of *darkist* are being exposed daily. The world-wide web is exposing *darkist* for the entire world to see just how much they despise dark skin. As for *Facebook*, maybe they should be banned or sued for allowing such hate to continuously take front and center stage on their website.

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### 13. GET YOUR BLACK A\$\$ OUT

#### **WARNING:**

Dark skinned people do not join any type of group with the non-dark unless you plan on taking the risk of being overlooked, having your ideas stolen, and not being promoted while watching the less talented non-dark promoted over you. JUST DO YOUR OWN THING. Now this might be a bit extreme for some but the reality is that many dark skinned people get overlooked because they are dark skinned. Sadly, the ones who are perpetuating this are mostly black people against other black people.

There are countless examples of dark skinned people being overlooked. A dark skinned sister contacted me and shared her story. I never forgot it. She had worked in a field in the entertainment industry for years. She was very good at what she did. Everyone came to her for ideas and inspiration. However, when it was time for a promotion or for a visible leadership position she was never the chosen one. She was perpetually overlooked for someone that was non-dark skinned. In addition, her ideas were often stolen and used by non-dark people without them giving her credit. The sister was and still is in a lot of pain. She has suffered silently for fear of being called a jealous hater or worse, losing her job.

I am also reminded of the example of *Peter Tosh* and *Bob Marley* of the *Wailers*. People love *Bob Marley* and I respect that. However, the facts are that *Bob*

*Marley* was a bi-racial man with a white father and a black mother. While not the only factor in his success, *Bob Marley's* bi-racial looks allowed him to be singled out and made into the reggae world star that he ultimately became. *Peter Tosh*, a full blooded **dark skinned black man** was not given the same promotion and backing as the bi-racial *Bob Marley*. *Peter Tosh* was every bit as talented. Yet he suffered from dark skinned discrimination. I argue that dark skinned discrimination held him back from the stardom that he truly deserved.

*Beyonce Knowles* of *Destiny's Child* is a mega superstar. The dark skinned *Kelly Roland* who is equally talented has obtained nowhere near the star status of *Beyonce*. I argue that this is a result of dark skinned discrimination aka *darkism*. When the two are compared it is clear that *Kelly* has not been promoted nor marketed to the level of *Beyonce*. *Beyonce* has been forced down the throats of the public through music, movies, and the internet for years. Conversely, *Kelly* has never had the same level of exposure and promotion on neither of the aforementioned levels. This has severely hampered her star power. *Beyonce* emerged from *Destiny's Child* the clear star while the others took a back seat. To *Kelly's* credit, she has recently announced a line of make-up for dark skinned women. Go *Kelly*! Go! I support you 100 percent! I hope to God that one day *Kelly* has the courage to tell her COMPLETE story. If she ever does I have faith that this will help many dark skinned women world-wide. This will expose what really

happens to dark skinned people and their life chances at success in mega-musical groups.

*Naturi Naughton* of *3LW* was the lone dark skinned girl in the group. Yet she was treated differently. She has given numerous interviews attesting to this since leaving the group. She has spoken out about her mistreatment in the group *3LW*. For example, in the winter issue of *Kontrol Magazine* she spoke on the mistreatment that she encountered while in the group. She talked about how she was put down and forced into a stereotypical role in order to be acceptable. It is shameful how dark skinned women are treated in the entertainment industry. It's very difficult for many of them to live out their true talent when they are being ostracized. I wish to God that this behavior stops so that the next generation of talented dark skinned performers will have a fair and equal opportunity to live out their goals and dream.

This next person is a tad bit off topic from the topic in this section, yet I can't write this book without mentioning him somewhere. *PRESIDENT BARAK OBAMA IS NOT THE FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT*. He is the first bi-racial president. I'm sick and tired of stupid people of all races making the assertion that he is. I'm sick and tired of his opportunistic ways of accepting the title of being the first black president. Black people, white people and all other colors of people need to acknowledge the truth. **The truth is that he would never have become the so- called first black president had it not been in large part for him being light skinned.** Even though he is

bi-racial and not black, he would have never become the first black president if he were **DARK SKINNED!!!** This bears repeating. President Obama would have never become the *first black president* if he were DARK SKINNED. I have a huge problem with him being given credit as the first BLACK president when he is clearly the *first bi-racial president*. He is a clear example of non-dark skinned privilege. You have people fraudulently calling him the first black president as he reaps the rewards of “**black firsts**,” along with all the other benefits that come with being among the black elite when he has not really suffered the true meaning of what it really means to be black. ***I argue that dark skinned people understand way better than any other hue of black people on the planet what it really means to suffer for being black.*** It is the DARK SKINNED PEOPLE that suffer the brunt of the atrocities of being black while the non-dark reaps the rewards when crumbs of opportunity come along. ***Darksim*** at its finest.

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## 14. TOO DARK FOR TV

Dark skinned *Brianne Gould*, the original actress that played the *Brianna Ortiz* character from *Meet the Browns* was replaced by light skinned *Logan Brown*. *Fresh Prince of Bel Air's* original dark skinned Aunt Viv was replaced by light skinned *Daphne Maxwell Reid*. *Claire on My Wife and Kids* was played by dark skinned *Raycole Jasmine* but replaced by light skinned *Jennifer Freeman*. What do all of these people who were replaced have in common? They were **DARK SKINNED**. What do all the people who replaced them have in common? They were **NON- DARK SKINNED**. If this is not *darkism* then somebody needs to punch me in the face or throw some ice cold water on me RIGHT NOW! The bottom line is that the replacement of dark skinned people by light skinned people on TV sends a clear message that dark skin is not good enough for TV. It sends a clear message that the lighter you are the more opportunities you will be given in the entertainment world. It sends the message that dark skinned people are replaceable. It's a sick, racist and *darkist* message.

Black people should boycott shows that discriminate against dark skinned people. Do we as black people realize that when these shows assault dark skinned people in this fashion that they infringe on their economic and artistic opportunities? They take work right out of the hands of the dark skinned person. They strip away hopes and dreams. They destroy life chances. As a dark skinned performer, this angers me to no end. It

shows that raw talent is not needed. Some of these performers have worked for years honing their craft and to have it stripped away due to *darkist* politics is one of the most disturbing things in the black entertainment community. I will never support any black production that inflicts this type of *darkism* on a dark skinned performer and I strongly urge you not to either.

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## 15. HARD WORK + DARK SKIN = YOU MIIIIIIIIIIIGHT BE SUCCESSFUL

America loves to sell the idea that anyone can make it in this country through hard work. It's a half-truth yall. The truth is that being successful in America depends on multiple factors. I've heard many go on and on about how if you work hard in America, you can be and have anything you want. While I agree with this general notion I argue that the application does not apply equally across the skin color spectrum. If you work hard and you are non-dark skinned sure you can have and be anything you want. This is why I am appalled when I see homeless non-dark skinned people who are clearly able bodied and who don't have mental issues. These people could be using their skin tone privilege to their advantage in a country like America. However, if you are dark skinned, your road may be harder and longer especially depending on the industry.

Hollywood is one of the many places where dark skin can be a detriment no matter how hard you work. This is not because having dark skin is inherently bad. It is because of *darkist* people who are intent on devaluing dark skin. You could be the most brilliant performer ever yet dark skin could hamper your ability to succeed. This is particularly true for dark skinned women more so than dark skinned men. However, if you are a dark skinned performer reading this I do not want you to be discouraged. Go after your goals and dreams with everything inside of you. Quitting is not an option. You will make it if you persist. I just want you to be aware of the realities of having dark skin in America as it relates to living your dreams.

My advice to all dark skinned people looking to make their mark in this world is to be honest about the reality of being dark skinned. Never give up. Never let go of your ambitions and work your behind off to reach your goals. Being dark skinned is not an excuse to be lazy. It should be your motivation to go even harder! However, just be aware of the snakes in the grass regarding your dark skin. **You are not the problem.** It's jealous, *darkist*, racist, hateful people that want to see you on the bottom because you are dark skinned. I am not saying that all people have this mentality. However, there are enough of these people out there for me to warn you about them. Becoming aware of them allows you to find creative and constructive ways to overcome any situation. I believe that **anyone** can reach **any** goal if they work hard enough. However, the reality is that it may be harder to attain certain goals when your skin is dark. It's bitter sweet. The bitter part is the realization that it's simply not fair. **The sweet part is knowing that when you reach your goal you reached it because YOU WERE ACTUALLY TALENTED, SMART AND TRULY AMAZING.** You can rest in the assurance that your skin tone did not give you an unfair advantage. You actually got there based off of your **true talent, intellect, and integrity.** Sweet!

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## 16. DARK SKINNED PEOPLE ARE MEAN AS HELL

First of all, let me say this. If in fact dark skinned people are stereotyped as being so-called “mean” they have every right to be. Dark skinned people were born into a *darkist* world that has given most of the advantages to non-dark skinned people. Dark skinned people were born into a world that is not based on equality or the merits of one’s intellect, talent or contributions. The world has been set up for the non-dark to succeed while barriers have been constantly created for dark skinned people.

I was fired from a job for no other reason than the fact that I was dark skinned. I did not realize it back then but in hindsight, *darkism* was the reason. I was told by the manager that I did not smile enough when serving the elderly Caucasian people and therefore they had to let me go. The truth is that I was polite and kind to all the people I served because they were human beings and as such, I believe in treating all human beings with respect. However, when you are dark skinned people assume that you are mean due to the simple fact that you are dark skinned. They make a multiplicity of excuses to cover it up. However, I realized from that experience that because I was dark skinned I was automatically viewed as mean and therefore I had to force a smile on my face even when it was unnatural for me to do so. Because of my dark skin, the regular rules of job place interaction had a different application. Unlike the white girls who were free to change their

moods at a moment's notice, I was expected to be "on" all the time.

That *darkist* job experience has haunted me my whole life. Nonetheless, I decided to be me despite this type of unfair dark skinned discrimination. This is the advice that I gave to a dark skinned young lady who contacted me almost a year ago with a very similar story as mine. My heart went out to her because she experienced a lot of emotional pain and anxiety from the way she was being singled out and treated at work. She was expected to put out way more energy than the non-dark skinned women in order to make it in her industry. I totally understood that because I had been there.

Your original dark skinned self is enough! This is what I told the dark skinned young lady. I encourage all dark skinned people to be themselves just as they are. You are worthy just by the fact that you were born. It's not your fault that people are so *darkist* to the point that they make your life hell because you are dark skinned. They are sick people with a problem called *darkism*. Keep being you, the beautiful or handsome dark skinned man, woman or child that God made you to be. Also, I encourage dark skinned people to start a business. This way you can have some level of control over *darkist* discriminating against you because of your dark skin. If you start your own business you do not have to work for *darkist*. Also, make sure you are as competent as you can be in your chosen industry. GET AS MUCH EDUCATION AS POSSIBLE. Be on top of your game. Be

DISCIPLINED. Be RESPONSIBLE. I believe in YOU! I believe you can do anything!

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## 17. TOO DARK TO GET ADOPTED

Dark skinned children are the least likely to get adopted. If you don't believe me then go research it. Whether you Google it, go to your local library or to a university to conduct your research you will not be able to dispute the fact that dark skinned children are the last to be adopted. For example, *The Griot* reported in an article on black children and adoption that CEO *Mardie Caldwell* of *Lifetime Adoption Agency* asserted that a black child's skin color is more important to black families than to white families. Why am I not surprised at this finding? Discrimination within black families based on skin tone has been going on in black families since slavery. The slave legacy has carried over all the way to 2016. Black people should be ashamed of themselves for this ignorant, *darkist* behavior. How dare you, black people! How dare you!

Apparently, dark skinned children are cheaper and easier to adopt than non-dark skinned children. For example, *NPR* reported on a white couple, *the Lantz's*, who noted that they were told by an adoption agency that they could move through the adoption process faster if they were willing to adopt a black child. They were told that **Asian, biracial, Latino and Caucasian** children had more families waiting to adopt them thereby slowing down the process for those races of children. From the evidence, it is clear that dark skinned children can't even get a break in adoption. Dark skin is once again being devalued. These precious innocent

most beautiful children who had no involvement in the construction and creation of *darksim* are all but victims of a wretched, wicked, filthy *darkist* society that they were born into. **Shame on those would be adoptive black parents who don't have the decency to adopt a child that looks like them.** Many are filled with such self-hate towards the true and original African phenotype of dark skin and nappy hair that they subject innocent dark skinned children to their self-hatred. These children suffer because of such weak individuals. No words can ever describe my utter disdain for such imbeciles!

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## 18. TOO DARK TO DATE

I used to be afraid to tell a man that I was DARK SKINNED. Dating as a dark skinned woman has never been easy for me. I also empathize with my fellow dark skinned brothers who have the same issue. Sadly, *darksim* is perpetuated by dark skinned people upon other dark skinned people. For example, a friend recently told me of how dark skinned women have constantly proclaimed to him that he is too dark to date them. This was heartbreaking to hear because the brother is very good looking. However, I understand where he is coming from. When I was a teenager and I met a guy that a friend hooked me up with on a blind date, we would talk on the phone and I would leave out my skin tone when asked how I looked. This was because of the negative feedback that I had received so many times when I had told a guy whom I had not yet met in person that my skin tone was dark. As soon as I told a guy that I was dark skinned the happy upbeat conversation went downhill. It was hard for me to get a black boyfriend, especially a dark skinned one. They DID NOT WANT A DARK SKINNED GIRL WITH NAPPY HAIR! I was too dark skinned and ugly and my hair was too nappy.

I noticed in my early 20s that it was the African and Jamaican men that I attracted. In fact, I always say that had it not been for African and Jamaican men I would never have gotten married. I have received several marriage proposals in my lifetime. All the proposals



except for one were from African and Jamaican black men. I ended up marrying a jet black dark skinned man from Jamaica whom I had gone to college with. We are currently divorcing. Don't feel bad. Wonder what skin tone my next husband will be? I guess I just have to wait and see.

## 19. DARK, LOUD & VIOLENT

If you are dark skinned you are automatically assumed to be loud, ghetto, ignorant and ratchet. You are not judged by the real content of your character. You are judged based upon your dark skin. You don't have to do anything to prove that you embody negative characteristics. All you have to do is be dark skinned. I have personally experienced this phenomenon in all aspects of my societal dealings. I can walk into a store, a school, an airport or wherever and it's automatically assumed that I'm ready to "get crunk." It's automatically assumed that I'm gonna curse someone out, talk loudly, roll my head or do something that someone considers to be ratchet. This stereotype is one of the most ignorant stereotypes within the *dark skin* framework. The stereotype is unfair because all skin tones can behave ignorantly. Just take a look at any social networking site to see their behavior. In the age of the *internet celebrity* and reality TV all types of skin tones are exposed daily as loud and ratchet. I have seen people of all races and hues engage in buffoonery. Also, I have seen many examples of so called meek, quiet non-dark skinned people kill other people. Many of them are violent and sneaky. They do their dirt silently. Many of them are unsuspecting. For example, recently I did a show highlighting non-dark skinned female killers who not only killed but got away with it. These women were seemingly "*quiet*" "*soft-spoken*" and "*delicate*." They embodied all the other *positive* stereotypes that are usually associated with non-dark skinned women. However, they were all murderers. More importantly, these women got away with the brutal killings that they committed. These women were able to get away with

murder due to the positive characteristics associated with white/light skinned notions of goodness and femininity. Dark skinned women have killed too. However, show me an example of one that has gotten away with the murder and is out and about living freely as if nothing ever happened. You would be hard pressed to find one. Why? Because these dark skinned female killers are in prison or on death row. There is no way in hell that such a *darkist* society would allow a dark skinned woman who has killed someone to walk freely. She will do the time.

Obviously, people that view all dark skinned women or men as loud and belligerent are ignorant themselves. Those who stereotype dark skinned women and men as loud, violent and belligerent need to ask themselves why? Is it not true that all colors and hues of people can be loud, belligerent and ignorant? Is it not true that non-dark skinned people have committed some of the most heinous acts against society? Is it not true that there are violent people in every hue? Is it not true that there are wonderful, kind, sweet, loving and giving dark skinned people all over the world?

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## 20. THE UNACCEPTIBLE DARK SKINNED WOMAN

If we as black people are honest with ourselves we know that there are levels to dark skin conceptions of attractiveness. This is especially true when it comes to women. For example, *Indian type dark skin* gets preferential treatment over *regular dark skin*. If you are a regular dark skinned woman that looks like me with regular dark skin and nappy hair your lot in life will be more difficult than a dark skinned woman with Indian type dark skin and so called “good hair.” The more Indian looking dark skinned woman with the so-called good hair will get more compliments and attention especially from black people in general and black men in particular. If the dark skinned person is a child, people will be drawn in faster to a dark skinned black child with Indian looking skin and so-called good hair than a regular dark skinned child with nappy hair. I have seen examples of this time and again. Think *Tatyana Ali* from the *Fresh Prince of Bel Air*. What about *Chili* from the group *TLC*. For my *BET* lovers think *Ananda Lewis* from *Teen Summit*. These are all examples of acceptable dark skinned women with Indian looking skin and so-called good hair. The closest example to me is in my own family. I have a family member who has Indian looking skin and so-called good hair. She has always gotten way more compliments, attention and privilege than me when we were growing up and even into adulthood.

There was a woman who was married to a very handsome black man at a job that I worked at while

living in Los Angeles. This woman was a black woman and was in a supervisory position. Her new handsome and friendly husband was also a supervisor. The woman was often worried and very jealous of the fact that he had to interact with other women on the job. She was also in a position that allowed her to see everyone that worked at this job via video camera. One day I was causally having a conversation with a fellow female co-worker who was telling me about a recent situation with this woman and her husband. The woman was well aware that her husband was a big flirt. The woman decided to do an assessment of the women on the job to determine which women would be a threat to the relationship between her and her new husband. The woman took one look at me and declared she was not worried about her husband being around me. At the time I remember feeling the emotions of anger and shock. I said nothing. I just listened to my co-worker tell me that another black woman thought that I was not a threat to her in terms of her husband being attracted to me. I was the non-threatening type of dark skinned woman. To her, I was clearly the safe dark skinned black woman because I was not attractive and therefore she did not have to worry about her husband flirting with me. Unacceptable dark skinned women like me are not a threat, or so they say.

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## 21. TOO DARK & DUMB TO INVENT ANYTHING

If you are a dark skinned person who has created or invented something please take legal measures to protect it. If you don't then you open up the flood gates to liars to come in and claim your invention as their own. For example, ***I invented dark skinned activism***. I invented the very phrase "dark skinned activist". I invented the word *darkism* and *darkist*. No one ever thought of these words, phrases or ideas in the context that I use them before me. However, I have bold face liars who are coming out of the wood work after I have invented and popularized dark skinned activism and its key phrases and words, claiming that I did not create the whole paradigm of *darkism* and dark skinned activism. When I ask these liars to prove their contentions they simply can't. They say I didn't invent dark skinned activism but cannot prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that another person aside from me actually did. People can lie on me, copy me and refuse to give me credit, the fact remains that I, Rashida Strober am the world's first dark skinned activist and inventor of dark skinned activism. ***There is only one Rashida Strober***, inventor of dark skinned activism.

These haters are so jealous in their contentions given the fact that I have taken up the banner in my own liberation. ***They cannot stand the fact that a dark skinned woman, Rashida Strober, invented the very paradigm of her own liberation***. What they do not understand is that the liberation of any oppressed

people must come from the people themselves. The oppressed should not expect their oppressors to liberate them. It is the responsibility of the oppressed as well as the duty of the oppressed to take charge of their liberation.

The saddest part is that the people that tell such foul lies on me without a leg to stand on are mainly black people (not all of course). Their jealousy and sheer hatred towards me as a dark skinned woman who has become the architect of her own liberation is no surprise. The historical record shows how they have attempted to strip other dark skinned women and dark skinned people of ownership of their unique accomplishments. One of the most outrageous cases of this is the situation of *Claudette Colvin*, **the real mother of the Civil Rights Movement**. They have fraudulently given the title to *Rosa Parks* who was not the first to refuse to give up her seat. *Claudette Colvin* refused to give up her seat months before *Rosa Parks* did yet because *Ms. Colvin* is DARK SKINNED, she was not worthy of the acclaim of her historical achievement. **CLAUDETTE COLVIN IS THE REAL MOTHER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**. You tell them all that *RASHIDA STROBER*, the world's first dark skinned activist said so!

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## 22. THE BLACK & UGLY JOKES

Anyone that's watched the TV show *Martin* knows that the character *Pam* was the butt of ugly jokes. People can make all the excuses they want about it being just comedy. The truth of the matter is that *Pam* being the butt of jokes is taken from the paradigm of dark skin being seen as automatically ugly in the larger black community. It has been the accepted norm in the black community to attack a dark skinned person whether man or woman with black and ugly jokes. **You could be ugly as all out doors in the black community and get away with it as long as you are not dark skinned.** This is especially the case for dark skinned women. However, darkskinnedblackmenfeelthe pain too. The late great *Biggie Smalls* is a stark example. The legendary rapper stated in his rap song *One More Chance* "***black and ugly as ever however, I stay cool G down to the socks.***" Although this is one of my all time favorite songs, that line breaks my heart every time.

*Black and ugly as ever* has always been a moniker of liability for dark skinned women. However, the show *Martin* did not create the TV stereotypical dark skinned bashing role. *Sanford and Son* was a leader in perpetuating the dark skinned female butt of ugly jokes paradigm. My dark skinned mother loved watching that show. We watched whatever she liked so my head was filled with scenes of *Fred* going in on *Aunt Ester*, calling her the most ugly, degrading names. My mom and brothers laughed their behinds off. I always felt really



bad for *Aunt Ester's* character as I did for *Pam*. Something in me knew it was not right even though it was always billed as funny. Now that I am a full grown adult DARK SKINNED WOMAN, I clearly understand that what the aforementioned characters and others like them were experiencing was *darkism*.

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## 23. DARK SKINNED WELFARE QUEENS

People are simply more empathetic and nice to non-dark non black people who have fallen on hard times. I have been on food stamps. I have received section-8 as well. This is how I know. I have witnessed the way the people who run these programs have interacted with the non-dark versus the dark and it's not equal. Dark skinned people are seen as dirty, lazy and trifling. I have seen the demeanor changes of welfare workers when switching from assisting a non-dark person to a DARK person. They went from a happy upbeat "hello" to a nasty "*I don't want to be bothered with you but I have to*" attitude when dealing with a dark skinned person. This *darkism* has been perpetuated by ALL RACES alike and by both dark skinned and light skinned black people. The irony of it all is that I have seen dark skinned people show more kindness to white people they were serving than to dark skinned clients like themselves. How sick! How stupid! How *Darkist*!

Black women, especially the dark skinned ones have been fraudulently branded welfare queens. ***I find this ironic when welfare was historically created for white women while racist policies systematically excluded black women.*** Racist governmental policies banned black women from receiving welfare until around the 1960s. White women are the real welfare queens. Around the early 1900s single white mothers began receiving handouts to feed their children through one of the first forms of welfare called the *Mother's Pensions*.

To this day, white women make up the majority of women on welfare yet black women, particularly dark skinned women get blamed for leaching off the welfare system.

White women get all the empathy in the world when they walk into any welfare office with their kids. People praise their kids for being cute. People don't complain or turn up their nose when a white woman with lots of children holds up the checkout line with a basket full of food. Be a dark skinned woman with a basket full of food and a bunch of kids in toe and watch the difference in how you are treated in comparison to the real welfare queens. You will get treated nasty. They will say your kids are bad and loud. They will view you as a bad mother. You will be seen as lazy and promiscuous. You will be branded falsely the welfare queen even though it is white women who receive more welfare than anyone else in America. *Darkism* at its finest.

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## 24. PRISON, PUNISHMENT & DARK SKIN

If you are a dark skinned man, woman or child you best do your damndest to stay out of trouble. I have seen with my own eyes the deferential treatment received by dark skinned people versus non-dark people in all types of situations from school discipline to the so-called criminal justice system. A *Villanova University* study showed that dark skinned women served more prison time than their non-dark skinned counterparts. This does not surprise me. I spoke to many former prisoners who have confirmed this. These are people who have been behind harsh prison bars. They are both men and women.

One of the most memorable stories came from an unlikely source. I recall running into an older white woman in a grocery store a few years ago. She was short, wore glasses, about 65, and looked like a hippie straight out of the 60s. She was very nosey! I was on the phone with a friend of mine chatting away about my upcoming play *A Dark Skin Woman's Revenge*. When I got in line the older white woman told me bluntly that she had overheard my entire conversation. She then invited herself to my play. She said while she was in prison she had seen first-hand how horrible dark skinned females were treated. They were denied privileges like the use of the phone and TV times as well as access to basic supplies needed by all females. The woman followed me to my car jabbering away with stories of the harsh treatment of dark skinned women behind bars. I

gave her two flyers for the play. She thanked me for listening and told me she could not wait to see the play. Her last words of advice were that I should bring the play to prisons around the US. She said *A Dark Skin Woman's Revenge* was badly needed in female prisons.

## 25. STEREO-TYPED AS IGNORANT & VIOLENT IN MOVIES AND TV

Recently, I watched the 1992 film *Class Act*. The film was rife with stereotypes of what it means to be intelligent, violent and ignorant based upon skin tone. The film was about two high school students whose identities were mixed up as they began the start of the school year. This wreaked havoc for the two students at first. However, with the mix up in their identities, *Play's* character (the dark skinned member of *Kid n Play*) saw an opportunity to have *Kid's* character pass his classes for him as a way to avoid going back to jail. *Play* portrayed a dysfunctional violent young criminal who had been in and out of the criminal justice system.

*Kid's* character, the light skinned member of *Kid n Play*, was considered highly intelligent with a very high IQ. He came from a middle class black family with a **brownskinned dad** and a meek, humble, happy and kind hearted **light skinned mom**. *Kid's* character's parents spoke proper English. *Kid's* character dressed neatly as if he were already a professor or professional of some sort. *Play's* character, dark skinned with dread locks was portrayed as violent and ignorant. *Play's* **dark skinned** mom was portrayed as angry and harsh. She was played by the dark skinned brilliant actress *Loretta Devine*. She was also depicted as a **struggling single mom** because there was clearly no father in the home.

There were no dark skinned people in *Kid's* character's advanced placement class. There were

however, white and biracial students in *Kid's* character's advanced placement class. The students in the regular classes were **dark skinned characters**. They were portrayed as ignorant and always prone to some form of violence. There were two female love interests. One was in the advanced placement class and the other was in the regular class. The love interest in the advanced placement class was **bi-racial & light skinned**. The love interest in the regular class was **dark skinned**. The **light skinned** love interest was portrayed as quiet, nice, smart and humble. The **dark skinned** love interest was portrayed as loud, dumb and over-sexed.

Dark skinned males were portrayed as violent, ignorant and very aggressive. The dark skinned male characters consistently wanted to attack *Kid's* character for being so-called weak. On this note I would like to say that the stereotype of the light skinned male as physically weak was also a damaging stereotype in this movie. I know plenty of light skinned males who are far from weak. In fact, quite the contrary. I find it horrendous the way that skin tone was used to pit black males against each other. I find it horrendous that the dark skinned men were portrayed as vicious, stupid and vile. Some of the most intelligent black men that I have met in my life are DARK SKINNED. **In fact, my ex-husband is super dark skinned and recently earned his Ph.D. A former fiancé of mine from Ghana is extremely dark skinned and also holds a Ph.D. My brother who is dark skinned is a Ph.D. My son's former math tutor who is dark skinned also holds a Ph.D.** I could go on but

I think you get the point. All those involved in this movie should be ashamed of themselves for perpetuating such damaging and fraudulent stereotypes of both dark and light skinned blackmen.

This movie by no means exhausts the array of ignorant and fraudulent portrayals of dark skinned people. I could write a book on that topic alone. However, this movie is reflective of the many stereotypes that do nothing but disparage the reputation and life chances of dark skinned people world-wide. It does nothing but perpetuate the discrimination that is already inflicted on dark skinned people throughout the world on a daily basis. These frivolous portrayals continuously throw salt on gushing wounds causing them to never fully heal. I have had enough! Let's end *darkism*.

***Note: Rashida is available for Keynote speaking engagements and performances of the award-winning play a dark skin woman's revenge. Visit [www.darkskinactivist.com](http://www.darkskinactivist.com)  
[www.rashidastrober.com](http://www.rashidastrober.com)***



## SOLUTION

We must institute a complete and total re-education of all people of African descent starting with the children. Also, black men **MUST COME BACK TO DARK SKINNED WOMEN** in balanced numbers. The black man can solve most of the dark skinned issue in regards to dark skinned female beauty right now by marrying and dating more dark skinned women. Also, ALL DARK skinned people should be made wealthy in every corner of the earth. Economic equality is at the root cause of the dark skinned issue. Write to me and tell me your solutions for ending *darkism* at

darkskinisbeautifulcampaign@gmail.com.

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## BOOKING INFO

Rashida is available for Keynote speaking engagements and performances of the award-winning play *A dark skin woman's revenge*.

WEBSITE [www.darkskinactivist.com](http://www.darkskinactivist.com)

CONTRIBUTE <https://www.gofundme.com/bcqe4>

WIKIPEDIA <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashida...>

## **More on Rashida Strober**

### **THE INVENTOR OF DARK SKIN ACTIVISM**

World's First Dark Skin Activist Rashida Strober

Rashida Strober is the inventor of DARK SKIN ACTIVISM. For years dark skinned women have been branded the ugliest women on the planet. Dark skinned women have been called every name in the book. Manly. Burnt. Darkie. Blackie. Dirty. Ghetto. They have suffered in silence for years attacked by friends, family and society. Dark skin female beauty discrimination is the big elephant in the room in the black community. It's the topic that no one wants to discuss publically, yet it's talked about within the confines of trusted circles. Some have recognized it as a problem and gave attention to it in popular media. A body of scholarly research has emerged addressing the issue. But no one until now has taken on the task of eliminating dark skinned beauty discrimination permanently.

Taking on a world-wide ignored issue, Rashida Strober, the world's first dark skinned activist, has created the first campaign in the world to eradicate dark skinned beauty discrimination. Since 98' the dark skinned activist has been relentlessly advocating for what she calls "dark skinned beauty equality". She's appeared on TV, the cover of the Floridian, on international radio and the featured story for many newspapers. Yet it all started in 1998 when she gave her

first historic lecture on the jet black Sudanese beauty, *Alek Wek* at St. Petersburg College. She spoke boldly against dark skinned beauty discrimination. Her fans will tell you that they have never before seen anyone advocate as hard as she does for dark skin.

A victim of what Rashida coined *dark skin mental abuse*, she wrote her story. In 2006 she wrote the play turned audio book, *She Black but she ain't ugly: A Dark Skin Girl's Triumph*. The story details her struggles of overcoming poverty and dark skin abuse. Sharing her personal story would not only be therapeutic for her but would also help others. A true pioneer, Rashida's dark skinned activism is the first of its kind. From France to Africa to New York, she receives messages of support daily from fans around the world. She says the most rewarding part is helping dark skinned women, men and teenagers who confide in her about their dark skinned struggles. They count on her to be there, listen and not pass judgment. They know that she truly understands because she's been there.

The dark skinned activist has gone on to produce dark skinned plays, books and original commentary. Her fans can't get enough of the world's first dark skinned activist. That's why she continues to write, speak and act. She wrote the award-winning play *A Dark Skinned Woman's Revenge* in 2006 and a book of the same title in 2015. She also wrote *How to be the hottest dark skinned chick on the planet*, the first motivational book ever for dark skinned females. This book is free at the

website [thedarkskinactivist.com](http://thedarkskinactivist.com). Check out her most recent show *Burnt Black Crispy Biscuit* in a city near you.

As a part of her international dark skin is beautiful campaign initiative, the dark skinned activist is touring the award winning play *A Dark Skin Woman's Revenge* around the world! Fans want to know what happens when a dark skinned woman gets fed up! Find out more about this pioneer and the inventor of dark skin activism at [thedarkskinactivist.com](http://thedarkskinactivist.com) or email

[darkskinisbeautifulcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:darkskinisbeautifulcampaign@gmail.com)

**Note: Rashida is available for Keynote speaking engagements and performances of the award-winning play *a dark skin woman's revenge*. Visit [www.darkskinactivist.com](http://www.darkskinactivist.com) [www.rashidastrober.com](http://www.rashidastrober.com)**

## **RESUME OF THE DARK SKINNED ACTIVIST**

This list by no means exhausts Rashida's contributions. However, it reflects a lifetime of the actual work of activism.

- Community Activist & father, Samuel X introduced Rashida to activism at age 10
- Studied under father Samuel X
- Invented Dark Skin Activism in 1998 giving first lecture/speech at Saint Petersburg College
- Became the world's first dark skinned activist in 1998
- Obtained Master's degree in political science from the University of South Florida
- Wrote graduate thesis on Structural Adjustment Policies in Africa, contributing to the research and public policy literature
- 2 time Feature Story in the fifth largest newspaper in the US, The Saint Petersburg Times
- Feature Story watched by millions on Bay News 9
- On the Cover of the Floridian Magazine
- Feature story in various publications in both print and online
- Guest columnist for various newspapers both online & in print
- Performed @ the Pan-African Film Festival in the one-woman show, The world you stood by and just watched by Steven Meeks

- Wrote "The Dark Skin Female Beauty Revolution" published in the Weekly Challenger
- Earned stellar reviews for the play A Dark Skin Woman's Revenge
- Created the first ever Dark Skinned glossary of terms and Phrases
- Taught American National Government at St Petersburg College
- Great American Teach-In keynote speaker on black economic development for black students
- Joined the Uhuru Movement in 1999 studying under Omali Yeshitela
- organized countless grassroots campaigns while in the Uhuru Movement
- On the campaign to elect activist Chimerenga Waller for St. Pete city counsel
- On the campaign to elect Chairman Omali Yeshitela for St. Pete Mayor
- Recruited Stetson attorney to provide pro bono services for the African-American community in housing discrimination and police brutality
- Conducted pro bono legal research and document preparation for home foreclosure victim
- Provided free tax prep services to the community
- Sponsored local artists
- Works with Christ Gospel Igbofia Non-Profit Organization to provide resources to the Tampa Community and International African Community

- Organized food drives for the homeless
- Advocated for victims of housing discrimination, police brutality and injustice
- Formed & participated in door to door campaigns for racial justice and equality
- Started the Malcolm X Free Tutoring Program in 2005
- Created the dark skin is beautiful campaign
- Girls change the world keynote speaker
- Conducted African American Author Workshop
- Black female business owner
- Tutored African-American students to pass standardized testing
- Protested the mistreatment of black teacher fired for defending black student in 1999
- Performed dark skin play for high school students
- Lectured high school students on dark skin issues
- Provided legal research for various civil rights cases pro bono
- Participated in and organized multiple police brutality and discrimination protests in Florida and California
- Conducted free community talks on dark skin discrimination in schools, churches, libraries and organizations
- Created jobs for the community
- Provided free consulting services on how to write, market and promote your story



- Provided free performances of A Dark Skin Woman's Revenge for the Pinellas County Urban League Crime Prevention Festival
- Mentored African American Youth
- Donated funds to African-American causes
- Mentored numerous black local artists
- Provided countless free performances of play A Dark Skinned Woman's Revenge
- Volunteer children's reader for Head start program in early 2000s
- Advised African-American students on how to prepare for college
- Wrote multiple dark skin themed books
- Wrote, directed, produced and performed in A Dark Skin Woman's Revenge
- Wrote first motivational book in the world for dark skinned women called How to Be the Hottest Dark Skinned Chick on the Planet (FREE at [Rashidastrober.com](http://Rashidastrober.com))
- Counsels dark skinned men and women (free of charge) suffering from dark skin discrimination
- Volunteer countless amount of time to various causes in the African-American community
- Provides free internet videos exposing dark skin discrimination world wide
- Constantly influence the hearts of black men

- Travels around the country speaking on dark skin discrimination
- Hosted A Dark Skin Woman's Revenge Internet Radio Show
- Performed A Dark Skin Woman's Revenge at the Atlanta Black Theater Festival, The University of South Florida, The Washington DC Black Theater Festival and other venues
- Award Winning Actress, Playwright's Red Carpet Award for Actress of the Year
- Wrote Darkism: 25 ways dark skin people are discriminated against
- Wrote, directed and produced Burnt Black Crispy Biscuit

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# DARK SKIN GLOSSARY

## TERMS/PHRASES

The following Dark Skin Terms/Phrases were coined by  
Dark Skinned Activist, Rashida Strober

**Attractiveness War**- the struggle faced by dark skinned women and girls to be seen by society as beautiful, good looking or attractive.

**Beauty Bargaining Power**- the beauty power that women use to obtain resources including, husbands, boyfriends, social status, and economic or educational benefits.

**Beauty Positioning**- using one's beauty to position one's self strategically, whether one is aware that they are engaged in the positioning or not, to receive, economic and social status, especially in the area of obtaining a mate.

**Darkism**- any dark skinned person around the world who is treated differently because of their dark skin tone. This includes the discrimination of a dark skinned person by a non-dark skinned person or the discrimination of a dark skinned person by another dark skinned person. Differential treatment occurs in all areas of a person's existence including but not limited to economics, politics, and social standing.

**Darkist**- one who discriminates against a person because of their dark skin tone.

**Dark Skin Activism**- dark skin activism is a phrase that Rashida Strober created specifically to describe the work that she has engaged in since 1998 in regards to her specific focus on dark skin. Rashida Strober is the first person in the world to engage in dark skin activism which focuses specifically on dark skin equality.

**Dark Skin Activist**- the name that Rashida Strober, the world's first dark skinned activist uses to describe the work that she engages in to equalize dark skin. Rashida Strober is the first person in the world to call herself a dark skin activist.

**Dark Skin Guilt**- Having feelings of guilt for having inflicted darkism onto a dark skinned person. The denial of dark skin discrimination.

**Dark Skin Heckler**- any person that berates, belittles or demeans a person due to their dark skin tone.

**Dark Skin Mental Abuse**- abuse that occurs based on the dark skin tone of an individual. The abuse usually occurs over a long span of time and produces low self-esteem in the individual it is inflicted on.

**Dark Skin Supremacy**- the belief that dark skin is the best skin tone above all others.

**Equalizing the Beauty of Dark Skin**- the struggle to make dark skin as equally beautiful as other skin tones.

**Imposed Inferior Beauty Position**- societal designations of dark skinned women and girls into the lowest standard of beauty.

**Leveling the Beauty Playing Field**- the attempt to make all women be seen as beautiful regardless of skin tone. To equalize women's social and economic standing regardless of skin tone.

**Non-Dark-** any person who is not dark skinned, particularly white people and light skinned people of any race or ethnicity.

**Post Traumatic Dark Skin Syndrome-** occurs as a result of the impact of ongoing and sustained dark skin mental abuse usually starting in childhood. Is evident in the way a dark skin person sees the world and interacts with others. Leads to paranoia and anxiety in regards to one's dark skin tone. Leads to low self-esteem and low self-worth. Rashida Strober experiences Post Traumatic Dark Skin Syndrome to this very day.

**Systemic Economic Darkism-** a deeply rooted system where mechanisms are put in place to impede dark skinned people from economic progress through policies and practices of socio-economic marginalization including but not limited to social exclusion, economic exclusion, educational exclusion and the criminalization of dark skinned people.

**World's First Dark Skin Activist-** Rashida Strober is the world's very first dark skin activist. She coined the phrase dark skin activist to describe the work that she has been engaged in since 1998 that is specifically focused on dark skin equality. She is the first person ever to call herself a dark skin activist.

***Note: Rashida is available for Keynote speaking engagements and performances of the award-winning play a dark skin woman's revenge. Visit [darkskinactivist.com](https://darkskinactivist.com)***

***[www.rashidastrober.com](https://www.rashidastrober.com)***

## **CONTRIBUTE TODAY**

The Dark Skin is Beautiful campaign needs your ongoing support to continue its initiatives around the world.

**A.** The campaign needs to reach 1 million dollars in order to produce plays and live shows about darkism on the Darkism World Tour.

**B.** A building needs to be purchased to house THE DARK SKIN ACTIVIST STUDIOS where plays, shows, darkism talks and creative works will be produced and broadcast livestream around the world.

If you would like to gift a property to house THE DARK SKIN ACTIVIST STUDIOS or contribute funds towards the purchase please call 727-564-0066 or email [darkskinisbeautifulcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:darkskinisbeautifulcampaign@gmail.com).

To contribute please go to the following websites:

**[www.darkskinactivist.com](http://www.darkskinactivist.com)**

**CASH APP CONTRIBUTIONS** at \$rashidalala

**PAYPAL** [icecreamladydream@yahoo.com](mailto:icecreamladydream@yahoo.com)