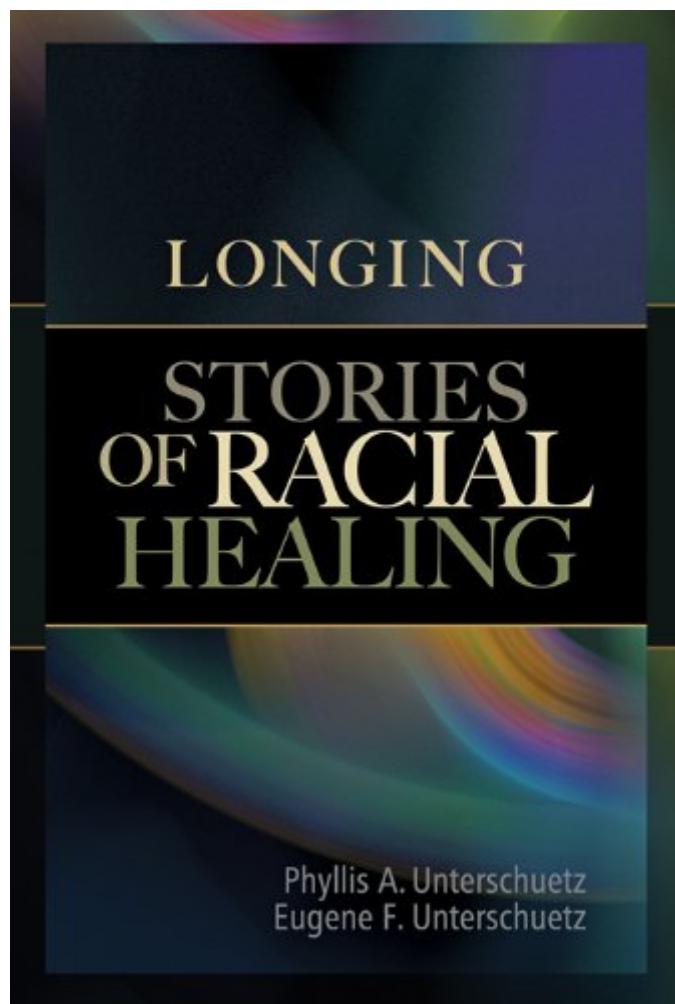


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# Longing: Stories Of Racial Healing



## **Synopsis**

Longing: Stories of Racial Healing is a collection of true stories from the journey of one white couple toward understanding their hidden fears, prejudices, and ultimate connection to African-Americans. It contains matter-of-fact statements about the fear and suspicion that both African-Americans and whites still harbor toward one another, and it describes how these barriers can, with the right amount of effort, be overcome. The book makes the case that both African-Americans and whites need each other and can ultimately connect through open-mindedness and tolerance. The authors describe uncomfortable and embarrassing situations, examine their mistakes and unconscious assumptions, and share what they have learned about being white. They share insight from black friends and strangers who taught them to see beyond superficial theories and to confront the attitudes that have shaped how Americans think about race. But above all, their stories speak about the longing they discovered everywhere they traveled—“a longing to connect and to heal from the racial separation that has so deeply wounded this country.”

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

A timely, sensitive collection of stories. Dr. Robin Chandler, Associate professor of African-American Studies and member of the Institute on Race and Justice at Northeastern University sums it up so well, "the authors permit others to see the possibilities of true freedom from the chaos of individual racism. Their courage will encourage others, of whatever generation, of whatever race or nationality."

Having read a few books on the subject of racism, racial equality and the struggle for healing in America, I thought I knew what this book would be. These books are touching, heart-breaking and written from the perspective of the oppressed people in America. When I saw the authors were this unassuming-looking white couple, I saw a potential for something different, something important. Curious, I went to see the authors read from their book and lead a discussion. Firstly, both the book and its writers engaged me with a compelling narrative. Though the subject they've written on is one they researched, they write and speak in an engaging manner, that would describe any topic with magnetic aplomb. Their essay-style prose dances, unforced, between the heart-warming, the heart-wrenching and the comic. This book falls into a mostly empty niche; it is written from the perspective of white Americans. I believe this is an important book, as there is progress to be made by ALL people involved in this matter. As a white man who believes in equality, I often find myself dumbfounded, as I feel unwelcome to express more than mild empathy when the topic arises. As I read *Longing: Stories of Racial Healing*, I learned things that hadn't occurred to me, found new ways to express the thoughts I had, and was moved by the narrative. I believe in the journey we are on, and I am glad to have read *Longing* as I continue along the path toward our collective, mutual wellness. This book is for everyone, and it should be read. If you have a doubt, go see them speak, and I am certain you will leave with the book in hand.

This book was written by two white people with such honesty and depth and their private thoughts and personal struggles and their tireless journey to overcome racism and improve their interracial relationships. Racism is definitely a disease that is deeply rooted in the white culture. I realized after reading this book that I must dig deeper and look into my own soul. If I liken my soul to a garden then I must dig out the roots of the weeds of racism, not just pick the unsightly sprouts. The Unterschuetz they really dug deep. At different points in the book I thought wow this is really obsessing about an issue! But every commentary brought it together and in perspective. I challenge every white person to read this book especially the white people who believe that they are not afflicted with racism, and I also encourage people of color to read this book it offers a different

perspective of what might be going through a white persons head when our actions appear really strange!

What a fantastic book. So real. It not only describes the real racial issues that are still so much on the forefront in this country, but it truly offers healing. It brings awareness, it educates, it reveals, and it heals! Beautifully written. I highly recommend it.

It is always surprising when you realize you (like most of us) have prejudices and fears you were not even aware you had, and these fears have separated you from enjoying the friendship of others with a different culture, skin color, or religious background. Phyllis and Eugene Underschuetz take us on their journey of discovery and healing in a very personal account of their mistakes and their new understandings. It is an eye opener for all. Hopefully it will form the basis of many discussion groups that are searching for answers to a challenging issue. I highly recommend their book as an important addition to your reading material.

This is an inspiring and well-written book concerning a white middle-class couple's journey to identify and tear down their own racial misconceptions and the unconscious cultural bias most white Americans learn from the cradle in order to form warm and positive relationships with people of color. They fearlessly lay out their own flaws and foibles, as well as their stunning successes as they follow this journey of healing. The focus is on understanding and uniting all people as members of one universal family.

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