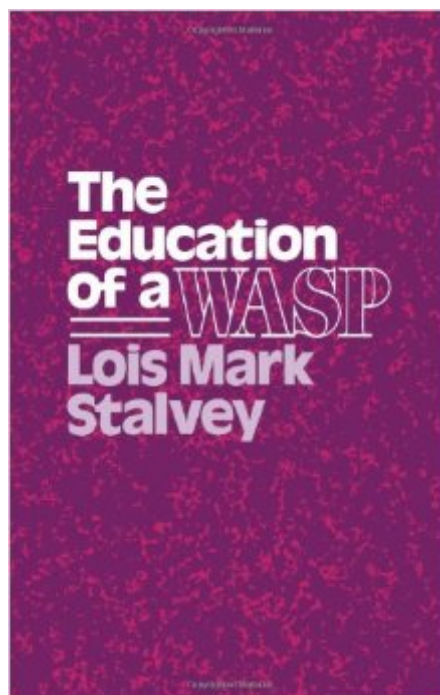


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# The Education Of A WASP (Wisconsin Studies In American Autobiography)



## Synopsis

Brimming with honesty and passion, *The Education of a WASP* chronicles one white woman's discovery of racism in 1960s America. First published in 1970 and highly acclaimed by reviewers, Lois Stalvey's account is as timely now as it was then. Nearly twenty years later, with ugly racial incidents occurring on college campuses, in neighborhoods, and in workplaces everywhere, her account of personal encounters with racism remains deeply disturbing. Educators and general readers interested in the subtleties of racism will find the story poignant, revealing, and profoundly moving. • "Delightful and horrible, a singular book." • "Choice" • "An extraordinarily honest and revealing book that poses the issue: loyalty to one's ethnic group or loyalty to conscience." • "Publishers Weekly

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars • See all reviews (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #501,171 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #297 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Educators #1181 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > African-American & Black #2815 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > African-American Studies

## Customer Reviews

Lois Stalvey came from a middle-class white Midwestern background in the 1950s-60s. She was ignorant of racial problems. She thought that outright racism never occurred in her community. That perception was changed when she made friends with an African-American doctor who was trying to buy a house. She then discovered the substantial vein of racism running through her community, in her friends and neighbors. She was ostracized and shunned for trying to help out this black family. She then continually got more and more involved in fighting for civil rights for black people. This is her story. An excellent introduction to race relations for Midwestern/ rural whites like me who saw

few black people when we were growing up. Also the book gives a glimpse into racial attitudes of middle-class whites in the Midwest in the 1950s and 60s.

My adoptive mother was assigned this book by the social worker that did their home study. Why a social worker would assign a book about the civil rights movement in America to a couple adopting a child from S. Korea is beyond me! Evidently it is an indicator of their ineptitude along with my miserable childhood with abusive AP's. However, I did enjoy the book and my education since I do align myself with the WASP mentality.

I have long known of the atrocities that occurred in the U.S. During the Civil Rights Movement. This book, told by a white woman who lived through it, gave me new insights and a different perspective on the subject. There was so much I did not know. I often feel overwhelmed by the issues of race and diversity; Lois Stalvey showed me that one person can make a difference. I highly recommend this book.

I found an early copy of this book on my parents bookshelf and wondered what it was about. I am glad I read it. It's not a happy subject, but I appreciated that the author was able to summarize her evolving perspective of racism in America rather than just lecture us on the results of it. The horrific details of riots were depressing but perhaps it was easier because the worst parts were riots that occurred before I was born. Surely things are better now, right? Reading this has led me to question just how much better we are. Generalities aren't enough, I'd like to know these answers more specifically. Hopefully things ARE a little better. What I liked best was how she was able to converse with so many diverse viewpoints and describe what she learned. One was a union bulldozer operator who sounded overtly racist but after a deeper discussion, he was really just afraid he'd lose his job. A second was the perspectives of teachers who unconsciously showed preference to white students. Racism as portrayed in *The Help* is obvious, but the most insidious racism is from people who don't know their perspectives are skewed. Racism isn't just overt actions, it's also in the subtle ways people react to events using assumptions we don't know we have. The book wrote about events happening ~50 years ago, and since census data projections predict that Whites will soon lose the majority, I wonder what the next 50 years will be like.

I worked in the library in college and happened on this book in the stacks. I had started a group to end white racism but never found another resource to help me with this process. I read this book

cover to cover, send it to the elders of my church, gave copies to friends...spent all my money buying copies so this womens journey from a total unconsciousness about white racism grew and grew and grew, She didn't know, she didn't understand but when she did, she did something about it. Not only in the midwest, but after encountering more "subtle" racism when she moved East to Philadelphia. I loved this book. Still give it away. Admire her courage and her journey and her willingness not only to change but to do something to change the injustcie she learned about around her.

I read this book for a Diversity in the Workplace class I took at college. I can never tell you how much it opened my eyes. Being married to a black man and having bi-racial children didn't teach me as much as this book did. If you have the time and the inclination, please read this book. The only draw back is the price. Using it for a textbook has given the sellers a license to charge as much as they can on it. And it is a shame because more people should read this but they can't afford to buy it.

I don't say this lightly, but I found this book to be life-changing. Stalvey gives incredible insight that helps you see stereotypes in an entirely different light and aids you in understanding better how and why minorities often can't catch a break. This book could easily increase our potential for compassion and caring feelings for others, and as a result, I strongly encourage everyone to add it to their reading lists.

Great book really puts race relations in this country into perspective in a non-offensive way. I great peeks behind the scened of some historical figures. Sadly, in 2014 we are still facing similar issues and this is a good start fr teaching our generation about "WASPs"

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