

myself identifying with Garner. That was a big deal for me—and it was the moment I realized how much I *do* have in common with people of color. And if I believed the police should judge each situation free of bias, then I had to look at my own dating decisions that way too.

I asked a good friend who is mixed race, “How do I start dating black people?” She laughed at me: I was living in the artsy, mostly white Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, and she gently suggested I try hanging out in other places as a first step. So I started going to bars frequented by black folks, and I briefly tried clicking the “only African American” box on dating sites before deciding to have no race settings (the first person I went out with after I started this process was Asian).

I would love to tell you that as a result of my new, expanded horizons, I’ve met my true love. I haven’t. But I *have* grown, and so have my relationships with other black people. On dates, we’ve talked about things like “code switching” (people taking on different personalities or dialects depending on who they’re with) and how to fit into the environment you’re in without having to erase who you really are. I’ve felt we could relate in ways I couldn’t with a white partner. This doesn’t mean I won’t date white people. I’m open, and I think *everyone* should try to be. (I doubt decisions to date within one’s group are conscious for most people; racial bias is likely ingrained. After hundreds of years of social conditioning, the same way the brain says “hot, don’t touch” when it sees fire, it may say “not for me” when presented with a potential partner of another race.) I’m not saying you have to make a solemn resolution to date a person outside your race this year; I’m just saying you should stop assuming you won’t. You might be surprised where you find connection.

When things don’t work out now, I try not to get defeated by that OkCupid data: Instead I tell myself that I’m not looking for those dudes who rate black women poorly. And I feel more prepared to fall in love. When I do, I will have made that choice from a fully formed place, and I’ll be with my partner because I truly love him or her, not because I don’t love myself. Which reminds me: I hear

Jeff Goldblum is into younger women. Do you think he’s on Tinder? **G**



Victoria Carter now lives in San Francisco.

Are We Biased When We Date?

Yes, but things are improving. Here’s a look at our semi-enlightened hearts.

We’re far from a postracial America, but plenty of data does suggest that, at least in our hearts, there are glimmers of progress. “Google searches about race and dating are 20 percent higher this decade than they were the previous decade,” says Seth Stephens-Davidowitz, author of *Everybody Lies: Big Data, New Data, and What the Internet Can Tell Us About Who We Really Are*, who analyzed this data for *Glamour*. (Some of those searches: “How to tell your parents you’re dating someone of a different race” and “What does the Bible say” about it.) Statistics also confirm that, more than ever, Americans are dating and marrying outside their own race, with sites like interracialdatingcentral.com designed specifically to help. And surveys show acceptance of interracial love is at an all-time high. More signs of progress:

In friendship:

54%

of millennials (ages 18 to 29) say they have friends of another race, according to the Pew Research Center. That’s true of only 48% of people ages 30 to 49, and 33% for ages 65 and up.

In dating:

93%

of millennials agree with the statement, “I think it is all right for blacks and whites to date each other”—more than the 86% of Gen Xers (ages 37 to 52) who say so.

54%

of people ages 18 to 34 say they’ve gone out with someone of another race, a Fusion survey of 1,000 people found.

In marriage:



1 in 7

new marriages comprise spouses of two races or ethnicities, more than double the ratio in 1980.



1 in 12

of all marriages in America are between spouses of different races and ethnicities.

Among all newlyweds, **9%** of whites, **17%** of blacks, **26%** of Hispanics, and **28%** of Asians married outside their group.

In our futures:

26 million

Americans will be multiracial in 2060, predicts the U.S. Census Bureau—triple the 8 million multiracial people counted in 2014.



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