



"WE'RE RAISING A GENERATION THAT IS LESS AND LESS RACIST. YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THE SHEDDING OF CENTURIES OF BELIEF SYSTEMS."

— Dr. Jacqueline Del Rosario, life coach and empowerment speaker

the pastimes that are considered more culturally Caucasian. The darker-skinned child might feel more comfortable with a circle of black friends, and like the music, movies and other interests that are considered more African American in a cultural sense.

This can make for interesting times at home, and perhaps even a special bond with one parent over another. But you have to "let it just be," Dr. Del Rosario says. "Kids decide based on what they feel more suited for."

And while, as a society, we're changing our collective view on interracial marriage, it's still difficult, though one popular American diversion is helping the cause, she says.

Television.

happen," she says. "It's in our face in so many aspects, and that's good."

This will make for some big changes over the next 20 years, she points out.

"We're raising a generation that is less and less racist," she says. "You're going to see the shedding of centuries of belief systems."

Still, racial differences can make us awfully awkward, there's no denying it. And blogger Rachel Khona, whose parents were born in India, writes about the foibles of urban dating in 2012.

Khona is clearly not Caucasian. But her skin color and facial features often bemuse her would-be suitors, who use horrid pick-up lines in an attempt to impress her.

They seldom work, she says.

"A lot of people think I'm Latin, so they'll come up and be like, 'Coma estas?'" says Khona, a 30-something blogger who started rachelkhona.com. "Guys will just come up to me and say the most random things."



Rachel Khona

Khona's suggestion? Don't try to be too culturally groovy—especially if you're a white guy without a clue, she warns.

For example, if you're hanging out with an Indian woman, don't constantly shower her with odd facts about Mumbai. If you're trying to get to know a pretty woman from Bogota, don't go around saying "Gracias."

And don't ask women like Khona the question, "Where are you from?"

The answer might be a conversation stopper.

Because Rachel Khona is from New Jersey and proud of it. ○

marriages in the United States were between people of different races or ethnicities. In 1980, it was 6.7 percent.

About 43 percent of Americans said they believe an increase in interracial marriages is a change for the better within society. Only 10 percent said it was a change for the worse.

But while the incidence of interracial marriage might be increasing—as with our acceptance—the difficulties and challenges still extend far beyond dealing with the simple curiosity of strangers, Dr. Del Rosario reminds us.

Families. Friends. Traditions—right down to the Christmas Eve menu. It's all affected.

And then there's actually raising your biracial children, if children are your choice.

"I really think that's the greater difficulty—figuring out what we teach our children so they find their identity," Dr. Del Rosario says.

Her advice? Let children gravitate toward their comforts.

"Kids make their determination based on how they look," she says, using black and white parents in her example, for simplicity reasons. "One child might look more Caucasian. One child might look more black."

The lighter-skinned child, she says, might gravitate toward a group of white friends, and perhaps enjoy