

The colour of my skin – Real stories of racism (Reihe)  
Tyrek (Sendung)  
46800774 (DVD-Signatur Medienzentren)

**Filmskript: Tyrek****00:00**

I was always one of the kids who always in the top classes, but always a bit of a class clown. I like to make a little joke here and there.

**00:08**

Obviously I knew I was Black. Background's Jamaican. And like I'm not like all the other kids.

**00:13**

But as I grew up. I became more aware of the fact that I was an outsider and that I was quite different.

**00:27**

I was on the way home from school with my childminder. We'd have to walk up this small, like, little hill.

**00:32**

Back when I was younger, it looked like the biggest hill in the world, but you know it's not that big.

**00:38**

Walking up this hill, I would walk past these garages. And there was police like just stood there.

**00:44**

They literally immediately like ran to me. And stopped me. They were like 'stop'.

**00:47**

And started questioning my childminder, like 'Do you know how long this kid's been here? Blah blah blah. What's this kid doing? Blah blah blah.'

**00:54**

And she was like 'I literally just got him from school. Why are you stopping him.'

**00:58**

The police were like 'Well, we've had reports that he was running around, jumping up and down on these garages, causing damage, vandalising this'

**01:07**

And my childminder was like 'Well, that's impossible because I literally just picked him up from school. He's an eight year old child.'

**01:13**

'What's the description of the person who you're on about?' and they were like, 'Oh, well, it was a fifteen year old black male.'

**01:23**

I knew that wouldn't happen to any of my white friends. I knew that wouldn't happen.

**01:30**

I think it came to Year Nine. There was this one kid who I got on like a house on fire at the start school

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**01:39**

And then he started hanging out with other people and I was like 'OK, cool. Still got my group of friends.' So I didn't think anything of it.

**01:47**

And I'd just found out you could get Facebook at the age of thirteen and so got it immediately. He came onto one of my profile pictures and was just being rude.

**01:56**

He was trying to annoy me and wind me up and obviously I bit and argued back and said, 'Leave me alone'.

**02:01**

And then the last thing that he said 'Stay on the ground where you belong. You dirty little slave.'

**02:12**

I remember shaking behind my screen and fuming. And all my friends coming in and saying you know 'that's disgusting, that's horrible'.

**02:20**

But he didn't. Didn't delete the comments. He just played along with it a bit more, he was just saying even worse things.

**02:26**

Called me the 'N' word again. These kind of things and I was like, 'Right. What do I do now?'

**02:38**

One of my close friends told his mum. His mum then told my mum and she reported it straight to the school.

**02:44**

The school. They had me going, write about ten different statements. It feels like a police interrogation.

**02:50**

'Did you ever provoke him?' What do you mean, did I provoke him? For someone to react that way and be that racist.

**03:00**

It shouldn't even be a thing of you asking if I provoked him or not. That's disgusting.

**03:07**

He was in isolation for three days. Isolation just means you're out of lessons. You're just sat doing work. Nothing strenuous that you're doing.

**03:14**

So he really and truly got a slap on the wrist and you know from that day the school just kind of forgot about it and moved on and everyone was friends with him straight afterwards again.

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**03:26**

I felt like an outsider, a lot. I just felt like it's me and there's them.

**03:33**

At the end of Year Nine, at the end of the year there was this kid, another kid.

**03:37**

Me and him just didn't get along and this one lunchtime he kept throwing stones at me and calling me the 'N' word.

**03:44**

So I went inside, asked the canteen people for a hot chocolate. Came outside and threw it over this kid. Hot chocolate all over his uniform so

**03:55**

He looked like a mess so he couldn't go into class. But he wasn't hurt. The teachers found out and we ended up getting the same punishment at school.

**04:03**

We both got an after school detention. We got a phone call home. His parents were telling him how horrible I was for throwing a hot chocolate over him.

**04:14**

Obviously they knew about what he was doing and what racist things he was saying but they didn't really care.

**04:18**

I remember his parents just looked at me like I was just a piece of dirt.

**04:27**

I think what protected me the most was knowing that I have my mum and I have my sister. I have my siblings, I have my brothers, I have my grandma.

**04:35**

I have family and I have my close friends and I think that was the thing that always. That always was my safety net. That was almost my blanket of protection.

**04:45**

I knew that no matter what I've always got these guys and these guys will always be there for me and look after me.

**04:51**

I don't care if I'm not the most popular person in the world anymore. I've always got them to look after me.