

Derrick Bell

Quotes

*White, Fear, Inspirational, America, Self Esteem, Change, Enlightenment,
Exhausted, Racism, Obnoxious, War, Views, Trying, Easy, Life, Ready,
Promise, Powerful, Example, Believe*

It appears that my worst fears have been realised: we have made progress in everything yet nothing has changed.

~Derrick Bell

We live in a system that espouses merit, equality, and a level playing field, but exalts those with wealth, power, and celebrity, however gained.

~Derrick Bell

I live to harass white folks.

~Derrick Bell

Education leads to enlightenment. Enlightenment opens the way to empathy. Empathy foreshadows reform.

~Derrick Bell

Self-esteem is like a difficult-to-cultivate flower. It requires frequent nurturing that occurs when you keep your word and follow through on your promises.

~Derrick Bell

Power in the hands of the reformer is no less potentially corrupting than in the hands of the oppressor.

~Derrick Bell

Resistance is a powerful motivator precisely because it enables us to fulfill our longing to achieve our goals while letting us boldly recognize and name the obstacles to those achievements.

~Derrick Bell

Slavery is, as an example of what white America has done, a constant reminder of what white America might do.

~Derrick Bell

All ethical people strive to choose "right" over "easy" when confronted by situations that force them to choose one or the other.

~Derrick Bell

The challenge throughout has been to tell what I view as the truth about racism without causing disabling despair.

~Derrick Bell

My wife says I spend my life trying to teach white folks. I'm not so sure I'm proud of it, but she's right.

~Derrick Bell

A rule without exceptions is an instrument capable of doing mischief to the innocent and bringing grief - as well as injustice - to those who should gain exemptions from the rule's functioning.

~Derrick Bell

Few whites are ready to actively promote civil rights for blacks.

~Derrick Bell

Courage is a finite resource, it is exhausted by the terrors we face.

~Derrick Bell

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