

Jess Row Quotes

*People, Race, White, Men, Black, Culture, Identity, Appreciate, Writing, Hip
Hop, Karma, Teenager, Long, Together, Squares, Korea, Program,
Government, Japan, Position Of Power*

Black culture is very difficult to explain to people who don't have any direct contact with it.

~Jess Row

I never really had novel-writing instruction like people do in MFA programs.

~Jess Row

I had a lot of expectations placed on me because I was already having some success with my short stories. That was not a good situation to be in. That by itself took a long time to overcome.

~Jess Row

Not unlike gender reassignment surgery, someone determines that they are of a different race on the inside and they wish to surgically correct that.

~Jess Row

I was relatively isolated from people of color. My parents are too old to be Baby Boomers; they had me later in life. So we didn't listen to any black music at all in the house, not even Ben E. King.

~Jess Row

The gestures and the swagger and the attitude of black men is imitated everywhere in American culture, but people still find black men intolerable.

~Jess Row

It was always a false assumption that white American writers cannot write novels about race unless they're approaching it from a very oblique angle.

~Jess Row

Only when you leave do you appreciate what binds American people

and our cultural experience together.

~Jess Row

Prajna is insight into the world. And a lot of that insight has to do with karma and the way karma affects our lives.

~Jess Row

Hip-hop is mostly what I listen to, other than jazz. I've given up on pop music and indie rock.

~Jess Row

There's an enormous difference between normative white masculinity and normative black masculinity.

~Jess Row

I was raised with opera and very white-bread folk music like The Kingston Trio. That was about as daring as it got. So when I discovered hip-hop as a teenager, at first it made no sense to me at all.

~Jess Row

The truth is that an intellectual life is available to almost anyone, almost anywhere, if they work hard enough and are given some kind of access point.

~Jess Row

It's only when an American steps outside of their own culture that you see how integral it is.

~Jess Row

I had observed people whose identity crises around race seemed analogous to other people's identity crises around gender.

~Jess Row

For me, there's a very clear parallel between the practice of insight in

Buddhism and what's called prajna - the insight that arrives through meditation.

~Jess Row

The impact of black music and black art forms on American culture is really difficult to appreciate.

~Jess Row

Narrative stories are nothing but models of karma and causality - how one thing leads to another. And a lot of narrative fiction is about causality that we don't immediately understand.

~Jess Row

The politics of transgender identity are really complicated. And the debate over how much of gender is biological and how much of it is socially constructed is a very complex debate.

~Jess Row

There is something very quiet and reserved and pessimistic about Obama's temperament that is deeply un-American. There are those people who claim, "Oh, he wasn't born here" - all that is nonsense.

~Jess Row

You think about every piece of idiomatic speech adopted by white men over the past ten or twenty years; virtually all of it comes from hip-hop.

~Jess Row

There's been a lot of talk about black men and the presence and absence of black men in positions of power in American culture.

~Jess Row

Most Americans have a sense of what the blues is. But in Hong Kong, they have no sense of the blues.

~Jess Row

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