

A woman with short, vibrant red hair is shown in profile, hugging a young girl from behind. The woman has her eyes closed and a serene expression. The girl is smiling and looking towards the camera. They are standing in front of a rough, grey stone wall. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

The "Talk"

1
00:00:03,080 --> 00:00:01,550
so you probably recognize what I'm

2
00:00:05,390 --> 00:00:03,090
seeing is kind of the circular element

3
00:00:07,099 --> 00:00:05,400
that okay on the one hand all blacks

4
00:00:09,980 --> 00:00:07,109
you've got good reason not to trust the

5
00:00:12,080 --> 00:00:09,990
police and if you raise somebody to

6
00:00:15,200 --> 00:00:12,090
believe you got to be careful about

7
00:00:17,990 --> 00:00:15,210
police you're gonna have situations

8
00:00:21,019 --> 00:00:18,000
where a guys running from police when he

9
00:00:22,880 --> 00:00:21,029
should be doing exactly what the police

10
00:00:25,849 --> 00:00:22,890
said and if you run from the police

11
00:00:27,560 --> 00:00:25,859
nothing good happens in those situations

12
00:00:29,990 --> 00:00:27,570
I would agree with you that nothing good

13
00:00:32,600 --> 00:00:30,000

it happens that's for sure but enough

14

00:00:35,330 --> 00:00:32,610

times enough people have direct

15

00:00:38,720 --> 00:00:35,340

experience in your own life and you have

16

00:00:41,360 --> 00:00:38,730

your own experiences with very negative

17

00:00:43,549 --> 00:00:41,370

interactions with the police because see

18

00:00:45,740 --> 00:00:43,559

this work this is on both sides of the

19

00:00:47,810 --> 00:00:45,750

interaction this is not just black

20

00:00:50,240 --> 00:00:47,820

people fearing the police police fear

21

00:00:52,520 --> 00:00:50,250

black people too and I think we can talk

22

00:00:55,910 --> 00:00:52,530

a lot about that if you want things go

23

00:00:58,819 --> 00:00:55,920

wrong because this interaction has

24

00:01:00,319 --> 00:00:58,829

problems on both sides but when we're

25

00:01:05,230 --> 00:01:00,329

what we're talking about is the

26
00:01:08,600 --> 00:01:05,240
situation where somebody like this kid

27
00:01:10,609 --> 00:01:08,610
has heard these stories I mean your

28
00:01:12,679 --> 00:01:10,619
initial question to me is why would he

29
00:01:16,580 --> 00:01:12,689
run why would anybody run you and I

30
00:01:18,800 --> 00:01:16,590
wouldn't but lots of people just don't

31
00:01:21,950 --> 00:01:18,810
live in the same world that you and I do

32
00:01:24,280 --> 00:01:21,960
and because of that there is fear and

33
00:01:27,230 --> 00:01:24,290
difficulty on both sides of these

34
00:01:29,300 --> 00:01:27,240
interactions and things tend to go real

35
00:01:31,010 --> 00:01:29,310
wrong and you look at what's in the

36
00:01:33,590 --> 00:01:31,020
media you look at what's get gets

37
00:01:36,980 --> 00:01:33,600
reported you look at the things that go

38
00:01:39,319 --> 00:01:36,990

terribly catastrophic ly wrong and too

39

00:01:41,450 --> 00:01:39,329

often it does seem to me it involves a

40

00:01:44,120 --> 00:01:41,460

young person of color now they may have

41

00:01:45,889 --> 00:01:44,130

some of a blame in any given situation

42

00:01:48,830 --> 00:01:45,899

you're right any of those could be

43

00:01:51,319 --> 00:01:48,840

different but when that happens that

44

00:01:53,389 --> 00:01:51,329

becomes a narrative that is in the

45

00:01:57,350 --> 00:01:53,399

person's head and they respond to it

46

00:01:59,060 --> 00:01:57,360

yeah but is there a risk that by talking

47

00:02:01,100 --> 00:01:59,070

about cases such as the one you talked

48

00:02:03,620 --> 00:02:01,110

about in your book by elevating these

49

00:02:04,880 --> 00:02:03,630

rare situations to as you point out this

50

00:02:08,449 --> 00:02:04,890

is the exception rather than the rule

51
00:02:10,999 --> 00:02:08,459
that people tend to over blow in their

52
00:02:13,940 --> 00:02:11,009
mind the extent to which cops are racist

53
00:02:16,280 --> 00:02:13,950
or you need to fear cops

54
00:02:18,500 --> 00:02:16,290
etc when we all generally seem to

55
00:02:20,930 --> 00:02:18,510
subscribe to the idea that you know 99%

56
00:02:23,210 --> 00:02:20,940
are good there's bad apples but let's

57
00:02:26,210 --> 00:02:23,220
not let those bad apples ruin it for

58
00:02:28,070 --> 00:02:26,220
everybody else and let's not focus on

59
00:02:31,100 --> 00:02:28,080
the bad apples let's focus on the 99%

60
00:02:33,890 --> 00:02:31,110
that are good I don't think there's

61
00:02:37,040 --> 00:02:33,900
anything that I could do that would make

62
00:02:39,500 --> 00:02:37,050
that that experience that that that

63
00:02:42,020 --> 00:02:39,510

existing narrative greater than it

64

00:02:45,440 --> 00:02:42,030

already is what you find when you talk

65

00:02:48,320 --> 00:02:45,450

to black people is that from the time a

66

00:02:51,080 --> 00:02:48,330

kid is 12 13 14 and certainly by the

67

00:02:54,080 --> 00:02:51,090

time the kid is 15 and 16 getting ready

68

00:02:57,170 --> 00:02:54,090

to drive black parents sit their

69

00:03:00,170 --> 00:02:57,180

children down and they tell them here is

70

00:03:02,150 --> 00:03:00,180

what you do when you get stopped by the

71

00:03:05,390 --> 00:03:02,160

police and it isn't just the kind of

72

00:03:07,040 --> 00:03:05,400

talking to that you and I got where your

73

00:03:09,290 --> 00:03:07,050

daddy your mom says do everything the

74

00:03:11,390 --> 00:03:09,300

police officer says and better not hear

75

00:03:14,780 --> 00:03:11,400

you're mouthing off these are survival

76
00:03:17,360 --> 00:03:14,790
instructions they are where you put your

77
00:03:20,350 --> 00:03:17,370
hands and here's what you don't do and

78
00:03:23,090 --> 00:03:20,360
don't move what kind of thing is

79
00:03:26,690 --> 00:03:23,100
instructed into people from an early age

80
00:03:29,870 --> 00:03:26,700
because parents know the real danger out

81
00:03:34,009 --> 00:03:29,880
there it's already that deep the danger

82
00:03:36,410 --> 00:03:34,019
of me exaggerating it is nil I wanted to

83
00:03:39,920 --> 00:03:36,420
tell this story because it's important

84
00:03:41,030 --> 00:03:39,930
as one thing we can get to see how we

85
00:03:43,100 --> 00:03:41,040
can improve things

86
00:03:44,240 --> 00:03:43,110
oh yeah and for sure I'm not I don't

87
00:03:46,250 --> 00:03:44,250
mean to call out your book I think

88
00:03:48,110 --> 00:03:46,260

talking about these things in and the

89

00:03:49,699 --> 00:03:48,120

issues that it raises is critical and

90

00:03:51,880 --> 00:03:49,709

has the reason I don't wanna want to

91

00:03:56,569 --> 00:03:51,890

talk to you but you know I do think that

92

00:04:01,600 --> 00:03:56,579

anecdotal bad incidents between blacks

93

00:04:04,819 --> 00:04:01,610

and police Kent Kent ant can tend to

94

00:04:07,100 --> 00:04:04,829

make it appear that this is a problem

95

00:04:08,840 --> 00:04:07,110

that's bigger than it is when when you

96

00:04:10,849 --> 00:04:08,850

ask most people even experts such as

97

00:04:13,910 --> 00:04:10,859

yourself you would still say that hey

98

00:04:16,430 --> 00:04:13,920

99% are good you there's the 1% that are

99

00:04:18,920 --> 00:04:16,440

that are bad but but I you brought up

100

00:04:20,300 --> 00:04:18,930

something that's top of mind for me as

101
00:04:22,009 --> 00:04:20,310
far as I something I wanted to talk

102
00:04:25,070 --> 00:04:22,019
about with you in this interview and

103
00:04:26,120 --> 00:04:25,080
that is the talk because that's what

104
00:04:27,740 --> 00:04:26,130
it's kind of called these days and

105
00:04:31,460 --> 00:04:27,750
that's what you're referring to there

106
00:04:34,490 --> 00:04:31,470
like parents having the talk so start by

107
00:04:36,620 --> 00:04:34,500
just walking me through best that you

108
00:04:40,760 --> 00:04:36,630
understand it from what you've heard and

109
00:04:44,360 --> 00:04:40,770
so on what is the talk exactly what does

110
00:04:46,400 --> 00:04:44,370
the parent say to the child well if

111
00:04:48,080 --> 00:04:46,410
you'd like to actually have your

112
00:04:49,640 --> 00:04:48,090
listeners or viewers get in a sort of

113
00:04:51,680 --> 00:04:49,650

first-hand look there's a video out

114

00:04:54,650 --> 00:04:51,690

there I'd highly recommend called dear

115

00:04:57,590 --> 00:04:54,660

child you can find it on YouTube what

116

00:05:00,260 --> 00:04:57,600

the talk is is how a parent will

117

00:05:04,370 --> 00:05:00,270

instruct the kid usually of driving age

118

00:05:06,080 --> 00:05:04,380

about the realities of the world if they

119

00:05:08,450 --> 00:05:06,090

don't know them already they have to

120

00:05:11,320 --> 00:05:08,460

know that police are going to pay extra

121

00:05:13,970 --> 00:05:11,330

attention to you because of how you look

122

00:05:15,980 --> 00:05:13,980

because you are black because you are

123

00:05:17,810 --> 00:05:15,990

brown you are going to get extra

124

00:05:20,390 --> 00:05:17,820

attention and some of that attention

125

00:05:23,090 --> 00:05:20,400

will not be positive in fact some of it

126
00:05:25,550 --> 00:05:23,100
is going to be very negative and what

127
00:05:29,720 --> 00:05:25,560
the parent instructs the child to do is

128
00:05:34,100 --> 00:05:29,730
to never lose their cool to do exactly

129
00:05:39,800 --> 00:05:34,110
and only what the police officer says to

130
00:05:43,580 --> 00:05:39,810
do to keep hands in view at all times

131
00:05:47,030 --> 00:05:43,590
unless instructed to do something else

132
00:05:50,719 --> 00:05:47,040
if something is said that is rude or

133
00:05:53,719 --> 00:05:50,729
nasty or even racist do not be provoked

134
00:05:55,580 --> 00:05:53,729
do not say anything nobody can win an

135
00:05:58,969 --> 00:05:55,590
argument on the street except a police

136
00:06:02,510 --> 00:05:58,979
officer and what we the parents are

137
00:06:05,120 --> 00:06:02,520
worried about is your physical safety we

138
00:06:08,030 --> 00:06:05,130

want you to come home and therefore

139

00:06:09,500 --> 00:06:08,040

these instructions are paramount if we

140

00:06:11,659 --> 00:06:09,510

have a complaint we'll take it to the

141

00:06:14,980 --> 00:06:11,669

police department afterwards we'll be

142

00:06:19,010 --> 00:06:14,990

with you for that but out there you must

143

00:06:22,159 --> 00:06:19,020

survive you must survive because this is

144

00:06:25,370 --> 00:06:22,169

a situation in which young people of

145

00:06:28,700 --> 00:06:25,380

color get killed and we don't want that

146

00:06:30,800 --> 00:06:28,710

to happen to you that's really the guts

147

00:06:35,300 --> 00:06:30,810

of it do we know whether Jordan miles

148

00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:35,310

had had the talk what I do know is that

149

00:06:40,150 --> 00:06:38,010

he didn't drive yet so I don't think he

150

00:06:42,610 --> 00:06:40,160

had I think I'd remember asked

151

00:06:45,490 --> 00:06:42,620

about that and in point of fact what I

152

00:06:47,860 --> 00:06:45,500

remember learning was that he was raised

153

00:06:49,530 --> 00:06:47,870

by his mother and his grandmother his

154

00:06:52,840 --> 00:06:49,540

father wasn't really in the picture and

155

00:06:54,430 --> 00:06:52,850

his mother and grandmother he said and

156

00:06:56,860 --> 00:06:54,440

they repeated this to me in separate

157

00:06:59,820 --> 00:06:56,870

interviews and all we told him respect

158

00:07:02,500 --> 00:06:59,830

police they're there to help you and

159

00:07:04,420 --> 00:07:02,510

there was a gentleman who was sometimes

160

00:07:06,730 --> 00:07:04,430

in the home as a friend who was a police

161

00:07:08,830 --> 00:07:06,740

officer and Jordan said I admired him he

162

00:07:10,720 --> 00:07:08,840

was a nice man and so forth so he

163

00:07:14,200 --> 00:07:10,730

doesn't sound like the type of kid that

164

00:07:16,270 --> 00:07:14,210

would have run if he knew that they were

165

00:07:18,040 --> 00:07:16,280

police I know you're saying doesn't it

166

00:07:21,010 --> 00:07:18,050

can be understandable that maybe he did

167

00:07:23,410 --> 00:07:21,020

run and know the police but really it

168

00:07:27,040 --> 00:07:23,420

seems it seems that he did not know that

169

00:07:29,260 --> 00:07:27,050

they were police well that's one piece

170

00:07:33,270 --> 00:07:29,270

of evidence that would say he didn't

171

00:07:37,270 --> 00:07:33,280

know yes so going back to the talk I

172

00:07:39,910 --> 00:07:37,280

like everything about that talk except

173

00:07:40,390 --> 00:07:39,920

the part that I questioned is telling

174

00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:40,400

your child

175

00:07:46,330 --> 00:07:43,010

I mean telling them what to do when

176

00:07:48,670 --> 00:07:46,340

interacting with police perfect why do

177

00:07:50,920 --> 00:07:48,680

you need to add on top of that oh and by

178

00:07:53,140 --> 00:07:50,930

the way you know police are going to be

179

00:07:55,090 --> 00:07:53,150

coming to get you and you're unique and

180

00:07:56,980 --> 00:07:55,100

different and you got to really watch

181

00:07:59,800 --> 00:07:56,990

out for them because they don't

182

00:08:01,290 --> 00:07:59,810

necessarily like your type or however

183

00:08:05,560 --> 00:08:01,300

you going to say that but basically

184

00:08:07,840 --> 00:08:05,570

alerting the child that police go after

185

00:08:09,820 --> 00:08:07,850

black people why is that part important

186

00:08:12,120 --> 00:08:09,830

to tell the kid as opposed to simply

187

00:08:16,720 --> 00:08:12,130

obey the police

188

00:08:19,659 --> 00:08:16,730

well because it's true for them I mean

189

00:08:22,120 --> 00:08:19,669

that's the little we said where we said

190

00:08:25,330 --> 00:08:22,130

right but we're acknowledging that 99%

191

00:08:27,610 --> 00:08:25,340

are good so you know to highlight the 1%

192

00:08:32,050 --> 00:08:27,620

bad I I just I'm just not sure that

193

00:08:35,110 --> 00:08:32,060

that's great for the psyche of a kid to

194

00:08:36,520 --> 00:08:35,120

be I'm just not sure that's important to

195

00:08:37,839 --> 00:08:36,530

be highlighted to a kid as long as

196

00:08:40,930 --> 00:08:37,849

you've highlighted the most important

197

00:08:43,180 --> 00:08:40,940

part which is obey the police

198

00:08:47,110 --> 00:08:43,190

I just don't see the benefit of the

199

00:08:49,420 --> 00:08:47,120

other part well you and I aren't black I

200

00:08:53,770 --> 00:08:49,430

didn't instruct my kids that way either

201
00:08:56,620 --> 00:08:53,780
and I wasn't instructed that way what

202
00:08:59,740 --> 00:08:56,630
the reality of black life in this

203
00:09:03,430 --> 00:08:59,750
country has been since time out of mine

204
00:09:06,400 --> 00:09:03,440
that they suffer mistreatment at the

205
00:09:07,720 --> 00:09:06,410
hands of police much more often and I

206
00:09:10,390 --> 00:09:07,730
don't know that I'd be nailed to the

207
00:09:12,160 --> 00:09:10,400
figure of 99% I mean if we want to go

208
00:09:15,130 --> 00:09:12,170
into the statistics they're all there in

209
00:09:18,130 --> 00:09:15,140
the book what I would say is most police

210
00:09:21,340 --> 00:09:18,140
interactions go ahead and and and take

211
00:09:24,220 --> 00:09:21,350
place without any incident but it's more

212
00:09:28,030 --> 00:09:24,230
likely to happen to people who are black

213
00:09:29,410 --> 00:09:28,040

and brown things go wrong and that's

214

00:09:32,530 --> 00:09:29,420

just that's not something we could

215

00:09:34,150 --> 00:09:32,540

ignore and I don't think I'm in a

216

00:09:37,390 --> 00:09:34,160

position to tell black parents well

217

00:09:40,060 --> 00:09:37,400

you're going too far with that that if

218

00:09:42,010 --> 00:09:40,070

that is what happens to kids and a kid

219

00:09:44,380 --> 00:09:42,020

is gonna say why I mean why should I why

220

00:09:47,200 --> 00:09:44,390

do I have to show my hands what's really

221

00:09:49,600 --> 00:09:47,210

going on with that mom or dad how would

222

00:09:51,430 --> 00:09:49,610

the parent explain it you know well

223

00:09:53,340 --> 00:09:51,440

let's talk about never had the reason to

224

00:09:57,880 --> 00:09:53,350

let's talk about the difference between

225

00:10:00,160 --> 00:09:57,890

racism and stereotyping and do you see a

226

00:10:04,960 --> 00:10:00,170

difference between those two because oh

227

00:10:07,960 --> 00:10:04,970

yes yeah so it could very very possible

228

00:10:12,130 --> 00:10:07,970

be that blacks are a quote unquote

229

00:10:15,120 --> 00:10:12,140

victim of stereotyping without it being

230

00:10:18,100 --> 00:10:15,130

racism do you agree with that Oh

231

00:10:21,130 --> 00:10:18,110

certainly yeah and you have to break

232

00:10:23,079 --> 00:10:21,140

racism down I think - I mean we're - I

233

00:10:25,840 --> 00:10:23,089

think too likely in this country

234

00:10:27,490 --> 00:10:25,850

especially people may be my age I don't

235

00:10:29,800 --> 00:10:27,500

know about you but you know what people

236

00:10:31,600 --> 00:10:29,810

think racism a lot of folks think well

237

00:10:34,240 --> 00:10:31,610

you know you got to say that word out

238

00:10:35,860 --> 00:10:34,250

loud you got to be willing to express

239

00:10:39,070 --> 00:10:35,870

those kind of things like Archie Bunker

240

00:10:44,230 --> 00:10:39,080

in the old TV show that's one type of

241

00:10:47,020 --> 00:10:44,240

this problem one aspect of it but more

242

00:10:49,480 --> 00:10:47,030

subtle forms of what we call implicit

243

00:10:50,950 --> 00:10:49,490

bias or stereotyping that can

244

00:10:53,110 --> 00:10:50,960

unknowingly

245

00:10:56,079 --> 00:10:53,120

alter our behavior those are two pretty

246

00:10:59,320 --> 00:10:56,089

closest things those have actually more

247

00:11:01,020 --> 00:10:59,330

of an impact than people really realize

248

00:11:03,790 --> 00:11:01,030

or understand they're very widespread

249

00:11:07,270 --> 00:11:03,800

throughout society including by the way

250

00:11:09,250 --> 00:11:07,280

in black communities -

251

00:11:11,920 --> 00:11:09,260

the testing and the studying of these

252

00:11:13,210 --> 00:11:11,930

things for decades now over millions and

253

00:11:15,850 --> 00:11:13,220

millions of experiments and