

## 12 Interview Questions and Answers



**Question: What made you decide to investigate the killing of Trayvon Martin?**

I listened to the 911 call and heard him yelling for help for nearly a minute and I could not get a night's peaceful sleep afterward. I promised him I would do what I could to help now and I knew I could do this through research and writing.

**Question: Do you believe there is a serious problem with how the criminal justice system treats African-American males?**

I believe there is a serious problem with how the criminal justice system treats all African-Americans. Institutional racism exists in the system and how Trayvon Martin's killing was handled is a prime example of it.

**Question: What was the most challenging part of your research?**

There were two things. I did not realize when I started my research just how much I would have to read, watch, and listen to in order to gather evidence and information. It was a tremendous amount of work but I remembered I made a promise to Trayvon to do this for him so I carried on. The second thing was dealing with the emotions that came up as I did my research. For example, when I listened to the prosecutor during the closing argument, I felt sick to my stomach and had to stop watching it because I was so disgusted and angry to see him throwing the case right before the world and no one stopped him.

**Question: Did you ever believe you would take on a work of this nature in pursuit of justice?**

I had not intended to write a book. This book is the result of hurt, grief, and outrage.

**Question: What do you hope to achieve by writing this book?**

I want the people to know what happened. I want this to be recorded in history. The police and prosecutor did not tell us. The media does not know. I also hope this information can be used to obtain some sort of justice for Trayvon and all the black lives that have been taken. Furthermore, I want this book to be used to help dismantle institutional racism and ending racial profiling.

**Question: Are you a mother?**

I am a mother of two cats. However, with Trayvon, it felt like a relative of mine had died. I did not understand why I was so emotionally affected by someone I had never met. I could only imagine how his mom felt if I felt as bad as I did and I never knew him.

Question: If you could say anything to Trayvon's parents what would you tell them?

I would say that I am sorry for their loss, that my work helps to heal them, and that their son's death was not in vain.

Question: Why do you think young, black boys are viewed so negatively?

I think what people see in the movies, rap videos, hear in rap lyrics, and reports in the media contribute a great deal.

Question: What do you think can be done to have young, black boys viewed in a more positive light?

They have to stop being portrayed so negatively. For each negative portrayal, we will need 10 positive ones to counteract it.

Question: Have you experienced racism before?

Yes. A person with a state government did not hire me because she was concerned the white men I would work with would not want to work with a "nigger".

Question: If you could speak to George Zimmerman what would you say to him?

I would ask him to tell the truth about what happened that night. I would tell him to work to rid his heart of hatred and fear.

Question: Do you believe Zimmerman was alone the night he followed Trayvon Martin?

Zimmerman followed Trayvon after he left his truck. Zimmerman had other people working with him that night and I go into detail about that in my book.

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