





YO
UR
BLK
FREN

My body was given back to me sprawled out, distorted,
recolored, clad in mourning in that white winter day.

—Frantz Fanon

Born with a manmade disease God couldn't diagnose.

—Kemba

YOUR BLACK FRIEND



Your black friend is sitting in a coffee shop, your favorite coffee shop. He's eating a po-boy even tho he knows he's not supposed to. He's hoping white guilt will keep the barista from confrontin him about it.



your black friend listens to a conversation between a nicely dressed white woman and the barista---



I saw this sketchy guy coming out of this backyard with a bike an I called the cops right away.

what'd he look like?

I dunno... black, tall, dreads. the bike was a 98 Gary Fisher w/ a big marlin on it, drop bars, disc breaks, a broken spoke and one of those Brookes racing saddles instead of the factory seat.

rich lady w/ eat, pray, love vibe.

was tha house on France street?

did he have a big nose ring?

yeah...



that sounds like Darren,
he comes here all the time.
that's his house.
that's his bike.



this is an important moment. your black friend has seen this many times: a white person, unaware of their racism, blunders into a moment in which it is undeniable. He knows that this woman still will not see it, she is both afraid of black people and the realization of that fear. It will take the barista, seemingly race savvy and familiar to the rich lady, to clarify what has just happened. But, your black friend knows the barista will say nothing. What white ppl fear most is "making things awkward."



munch
munch



your black friend would like to say something but doesn't want to appear angry. he knows this type of person expects that from him and he will lose before he begins.



This' why he has white friends, he thinks. White ppl are allowed to be "angry" when he is expected to be calm and reasonable. he wishes he could make you understand this, and many other things...

YOGA
COOK
BOOK



for example: your black friend wishes you understood why he hates it when the barista calls him "baby" like she is his "auntie", or any other black woman over the age of 50.



It reminds him of all the times he sees his white friends put on linguistic "black face" (he calls it "black voice.") with unfamiliar black people and especially black kids. He sees white friends wanting to participate in "Blackness," like it was a costume, but knows they wouldn't want to live with the consequences of actually being black. He wonders if white people know they're over using the word "trippin"?