

'How it Works'



THE
RACE
CARD

(NOT) A LADYBIRD BOOK

HOW IT WORKS

THE

RACE CARD

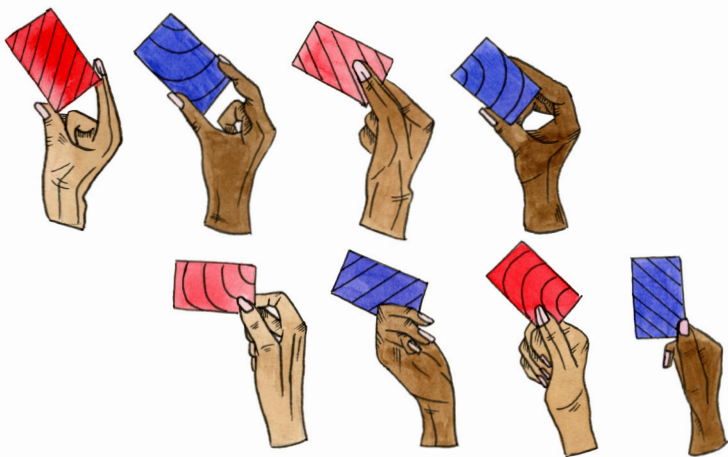
**A SEMI-COMICAL INSTRUCTION MANUAL
THAT ISN'T OFFENSIVE BECAUSE ACCORDING TO GOOGLE
REVERSE RACISM ISN'T REAL**

In colloquial parlance, there exists a term: “Playing the Race Card.”

The term refers to the exploitation of racist, or anti-racist rhetoric, to the end of personal gain.

Most commonly, the phrase is bandied about by Gammons and Karens, to invalidate a person of colour’s assertion of acts of discrimination.

There is scope, however, for the card to become a tool of rectification - for bodies of colour to escape the arduous tasks society dictates to them. The Race Card can be played in a number of situations, and environments. To do so is an act of reclaiming - reclaiming the phrase; one’s time, and one’s energy.

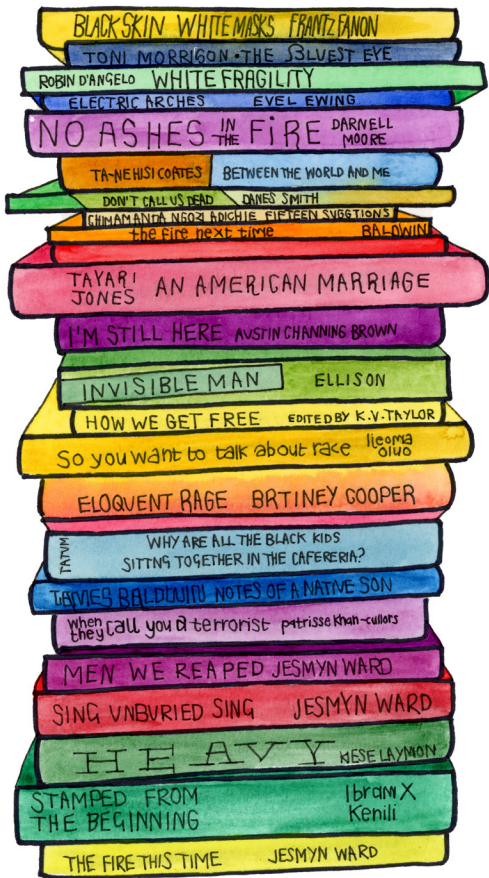


Ada has been invited to a party she does not want to go to. The party is being thrown by Sally, who is Very Irritating.

Rather than saying to the Sally's face, "I don't like you, and would rather stick pins in my eyes that come," she decides to play the Race Card.

When Sally messages her to confirm her attendance, Ada replies: "Edouard said opacity is a noble stance against domination. So, to remain unknowable, I shan't be attending."

This is an example of how to play the Race Card, to get out of social situations.

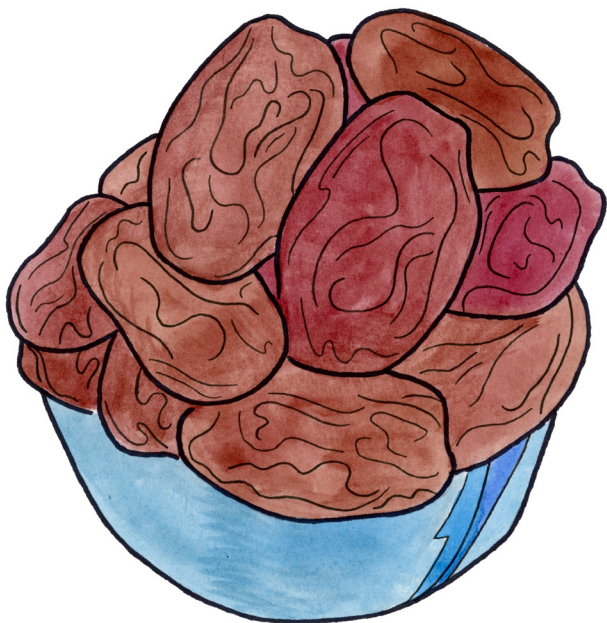


Sally doesn't know who Edouard is.

On googling various combinations (Edouard + opacity; Edouard + domination; etc), she discerns Ada's reference to be to the Martinican writer, poet, philosopher and literary critic, Edouard Glissant.

Since Glissant is Black, Sally decides to ask Ada, who is Jamaican, for a further reading list of correlative literature. Ada, who has just returned from her actual job, decides she is too tired to do intellectual labour Sally could very well do herself, using Google. She texts back: "My ancestors did not struggle for me to have to do things that bore me."

This is an example of how to play the Race Card to skirt the onus of racial education.

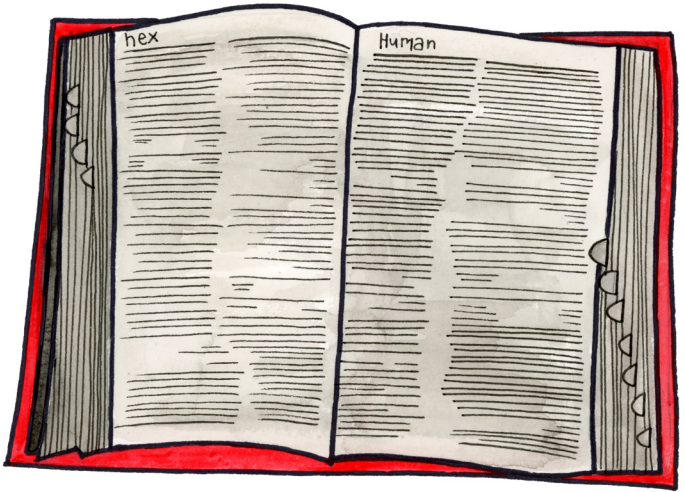


On the night of Sally's party, since she is now free, Ada goes on a date with Spencer.

Spencer is obnoxious, and largely talks about the hazing activities he endured as part of his collegiate university's Rugby team. Ada would quite like to go home.

When Spencer briefly pauses his tortuous monologue to ask Ada whether she has siblings, Ada replies: "That line of questioning is triggering my inherited trauma," gets up, and leaves.

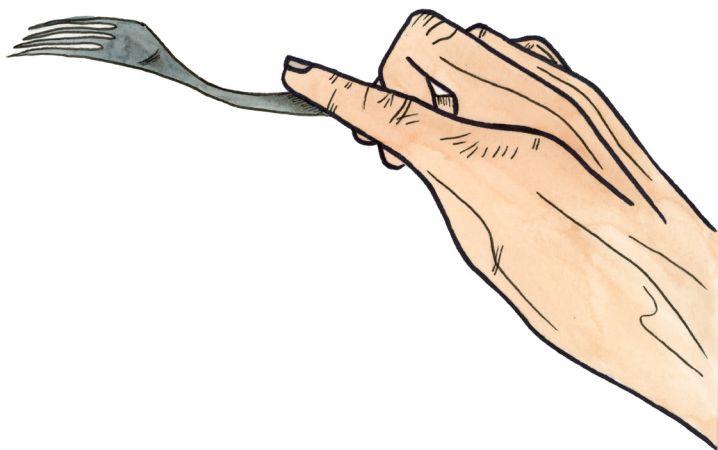
This is an example of how to play the Race Card to get out of a bad date.



Spencer is friends with Tobi, who is third-generation Nigerian. Tobi is dyslexic.

When Spencer messages him to relay the details of his date with Ada, Tobi's response contains a malapropism. Spencer, because he is insufferable, highlights his friend's faux pas. Tobi, who doesn't really like Spencer anyway, replies in turn: "My misuse of that word was, in fact, Creolisation."

This is an example of how to play the Race Card, to disregard the rules of grammar.



Spencer keeps texting Ada. Though Ada is hesitant, she agrees to go on a second date with him, largely encouraged by friend Becky, who is insistent Ada's standards are too high. Through a mouthful of rare steak, Spencer makes an Ignorant Comment. Ada, in a bid to curtail his line of thought, quips, "It's giving colonialism."

Spencer, because he is, as aforementioned, insufferable, doubles down on his nonsense. Ada lets him finish his spiel, before calmly stating: "As both a woman, and a person of colour, I reserve the right to tell you that you're unequivocally wrong." Once again, she gets up, and leaves.

This is an example (in two parts) of how to play the Race Card, to embarrass faux-neoliberal Soft Bois.



Ada calls her cousin Ifeoma, to tell her about the disastrous date.

Ifeoma is a screenwriter in Hollywood – a location in which rumours about a Black Illuminati abound.

After hanging up, Ifeoma heads to brunch, where the person seated next to her regales her with fictitious anecdotes about the Carter's involvement in the organisation. Based on her polity, the bore decides Ifeoma is romantically interested, and proceeds to ask her out for a drink.

Ifeoma, reluctant to say, “Oh no, you're unattractive and I dislike you immensely,” feigns disappoint and answers: “I wish I could, but I can't, because of epigenetics.”

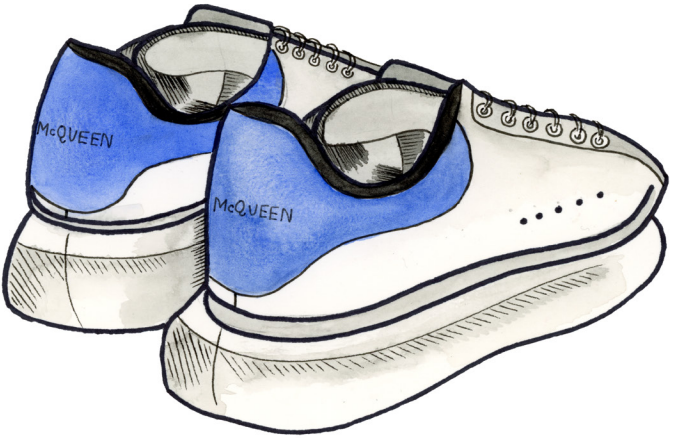
This is an example of how to play the Race Card, to let someone down easy.



After brunch, the host asks the room if any guests mind helping to tidy. Ifeoma is roped into washing dishes.

After approximately three plates, she is bored. She hunts around for a pair of Marigolds, makes a lame attempt to put one on, before turning to the host and saying: “The glove doesn’t fit, so I, you must acquit.”

This is an example of how to play the Race Card to get out of manual labour.



One Friday evening, Ifeoma goes out dancing with some friends. By chance, Tobi is visiting an old university housemate now living in California, and the pair end up at the same club.

At one point, Tobi looks over and sees Ifeoma being badgered by an intoxicated male in skinny jeans and the Alexander McQueen Oversized Sneakers. After spotting a White Claw in the assailant's left hand, Tobi decides to intervene.

In earshot of a bouncer he pronounces, "No, sir, I shall NOT drink you KOOL-AID." On the assumption that the persistent gentleman was a cult leader proposing revolutionary suicide, he was ousted from the premises by two burly security men.

This is an example of how to play the Race Card, to get someone kicked out of a nightclub.

