35 Dumb Things Well-Intentioned People Say: Surprising Things We Say That Widen the Diversity Gap
by Dr. Maura Cullen

“Some of my best friends are…”

“I know exactly how you feel!”

“I don’t think of you as…”

“The same thing happens to me too.”

“It was only a joke! Don’t take things so seriously.”

“What do your people think?”

“What are you?” or “Where are you ‘really’ from?”

“I don’t see color” or “I’m color blind.”

“You are so articulate.”

“it is so much better than it used to be. Just be patient.”

“You speak the language very well.”

Asking black people about their hair or hygiene.

Saying to gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender people,

“What you do in the privacy of your own bedroom is your business.”

“Yes, but you’re a ‘good’ one.”

“You have such a pretty face.”

“I never owned slaves.”

“If you are going to live in this country, learn to speak the language!”

“She/he is a good person. She/he didn’t mean anything by it.”

“When I’ve said the same thing to other people like you, they didn’t mind.”

Calling women “Girls, Honey, Sweetie Pie” or other familiar terms.

When people of color say, “It’s not the same thing.”

When people of faith say, “Love the sinner, hate the sin.”

When white men say, “We are the ones who are being discriminated against now!”

Referring to older people as “cute.”

Asking a transgender person, “What are you really? Are you a man or a woman?”

Referring to the significant other, partner, or spouse of a same gender couple as their “friend.”

“Why do they (fill in the blank) always have to sit together? They are always ticking together.”

“People just need to pick themselves up by their bootstraps.”

“People with disabilities are courageous.”

“That’s so gay/queer” or “That’s so retarded.”

“I don’t see difference. We’re all part of the same race, the human race.”

“I don’t care if you are pink, purple, or orange, I treat all people the same.”

Asking a transgender person, “Have you had the operation?”

Saying to a Jewish person, “You are so lucky to have your ‘Christmas’ spread out over a week!”

Here is another book on ‘political correctness’.