

AD 07 Jamar King

Claire Clotney: Hi, my name's Claire Clotney, and welcome back to another episode of American Dreamers. This awesome podcast is an Aurra Studios original production bringing you thought-provoking and inspiring conversations with Black Brits, Black Americans, and their families to explore whether life for black people is better in the UK or the US.

Walls. The mixed-race population is the fastest-growing ethnic group in the UK. I've noticed that when you're filling out forms here in the US there is no box for mixed-race people to tick. It's either black or white American, Hispanic, Asian, or other. The mixed reaction to the arrival of art to the son of Prince Harry, a white man, and actress and Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex,

a mixed-race woman from America, of course, made many in the world question what it means to be a mixed-race and black person in the UK, and the US. On this episode of American Dreamers, I'm speaking to a British-born us army veteran who is also of mixed race, Liverpoolian reside in Las Vegas. I'm going to allow Jamar King the comforts of being in the driver's seat.

Something that he's not always been afforded here in the US so he can share his experiences with us. Welcome to Jamar how you doing?

Jamar King: Good. Good. Well, a pleasure to be here. Looking

forward to this.

Claire Clotney: Yeah, really excited to have you here. You've got quite an interesting ethnic identity, but before I get into that, I'm going to ask you about American football.

Or futbol, you know what I mean? By saying, say soccer.

Jamar King: Nah, don't do the soccer thing that I get into this a lot with Americans, because technically in an American football game, they kick the ball maybe 20 times in four hours, as opposed to proper futbol or 40, we constantly kicked the ball so. Yeah, American football of 40 that's.

That's how we were fair to him.

Claire Clotney: Which one do you prefer though?

Jamar King: Oh, 40 40 now I'm a Scouser Liverpool. I'm a red being a red all me life. It's difficult. That's one difficult thing about just being a Brit in the states is having to get up all four in the morning for the kickoff.

Claire Clotney: Now you said you've been a red all your life.

That means something completely different in the USA. If you say you're a red, then your conservative, aren't you your part of the Republican party?

Jamar King: Talking to a fellow Brit. Especially

me being from Liverpool. Most people know that being a red from Liverpool means that you support Liverpool. That's one of the first things that you asked.

In the city of Liverpool. When you meet someone, oh, nice to meet you, blah, blah, blah. Are you a red or a blue? And usually they say blue second because that's advertised and they're second to Liverpool in the city of Liverpool. So that's how we keep it. So when I say I'm a red, I'm not a Republican, I'm not a blood or anything like that.

I'm just supporter Liverpool.

Claire Clotney: All right. So I'm going to ask you The Beatles or Boys to Men?

Jamar King: It's apples and oranges. Isn't it. It's both first different situations. I grew up in Liverpool. The Beatles is a big part of Liverpool. You know, I've been sort of Calvin penny lane was where I got the bus to school.

I went to call the stone school. I think John and Paul went to don't hold me to that. But John definitely went to quarry bank is called the stone school, but it was originally quarry bank school. The Beatles is always going to be in Bihar, but if I'm trying to. Make it into someone's heart, then it would be the, it'd be Boys to Men on bended knee or something like that.

Claire Clotney: I know it's, it's tricky, but I've got to ask you one more question to really see if I can get a sense of your identity. Royal Albert dock or Las Vegas strip

Jamar King: Las Vegas Strip. I feel bad saying that. I mean, the docs nice to go to. It's nice to walk around, look at the river mayors, go to the sweet shops, take pictures.

Like they got a slavery museum there too. I've been to that. So of my kids that are back in the day, but, um, I'm at the age now to where I want to see the lights, you know, Someone explained Vegas to me as a big Blackpool. And it is a big black pool. You just don't get the there's no black pool rockier. You know what I prefer?

Downtown Vegas, downtown Vegas free months. There's I like to people watch. So there's more to do downtown than there is on the strip. But in general, I'd have to say the strip over the

albatross.

Claire Clotney: So I've been to Liverpool. I went on a road trip with my girls and it was the most. Phenomenal experience ever.

It was a Saturday night and I remember girls were out in their rollers. They had the makeup done, they were getting ready to hit the town and anything kind of went, but it's pretty similar to Las Vegas strip. You know, you can see people from all walks of life, but something about being in Liverpool, just really warmed my heart.

Jamar King: It's that fake Brookside accident right there. But no, I mean, I took the wife to Liverpool. We were supposed to meet up with family, but we was a bit early getting to the pub and she's from Puerto Rico. I met her in the states. You're from Puerto Rico. So there's a bit of a clash, right there went to the pub, got to the pub and she said, what are we going to do?

We're like 20 minutes early. And I said, well, just sit here and have a pint. And then within like two minutes, We was invited over in the corner with like 20 locals and Liverpool. I've learned a lot from this sadness and she also felt that in Vegas, you've got to be more, it sounds bad, but you gotta be a little more suspicious when people invite you into their groups or.

You know, Hey, come and have a drink with us at the bar or the sadness, because you think in a trying to get over, what are they trying to do to try to scam yet? Rob here, they started this and in general in Liverpool, it's just, if you're a nice person just going to welcome you in his family and just have a laugh with Jeff.

So that's one of the major things I'm missing. Being home. And I say home because it's always going to be home. I missed the family members, aunties, uncles, cousins, and all of that. I miss their best mates and all that. And I miss

the food of course. And the banter, just the sense of. I've said a few things in the states, and it's funny to me and the whole room just gone silent, but we have in Vegas alone, we have a lot of experts in Vegas.

So we, um, get together a lot for the matches little get-togethers, new year's Eve. We get together at a local pub and celebrate the English new year's Eve. So, yeah, there's, there's quite a following out here and a lot of ex Brits ex-pats out here.

Claire Clotney: And Liverpool has a very distinct culture. You know, it's got the slavery museum, it's historic in the transatlantic slavery, you know, it had a massive role, the docks, and so being mixed race and Liverpool, must've been quite an interesting experience for you growing up,

Jamar King: You know what?

We didn't learn too much about the slave trade in Liverpool. I don't know it was in London, but we didn't learn a lot about the slave trade industry, especially being in Liverpool. But as I got older as an adult, especially like when black lives matter started now, I was checked the newspapers in England, Liverpool echo, and all out online.

And I've got family still over there. I got one brother and two sisters over there. They started letting me know sat in places like penny lane was later named after a slave. Trader a lot of the busy streets that I grew up on and walked around casually were named after slave traders. Back in the day, there is a call for certain streets to be renamed.

I agree with it to some extent, but at the end of the day, I think. If people walk past penny lane and they go there's penny lane, the Beatles sang about it. And then somebody else says, oh yeah, but also it was named after someone that was involved in the slave trades, it was. Open up the conversation about slave trade and everything, rather than just get rid of it, change the name and then try and act like all is well now because we changed the name.

I don't think it works

like that. It's really interesting. You mentioned black lives matter. Do you feel that you became more aware of race issues when you moved to America?

I moved to America at 19, but prior to that, my mom remarried. When I was like 15, 16, and he was there for some American air force. So we moved from

Liverpool to Spain and I was there for like a year didn't fit me, came back to Liverpool.

Cause you know, I'm going to be a grown man and get me own job and all that stuff. So I came back at like 16 and a half or so, you know, a few of me mates were like, just go back to. I finished the school. It's an opportunity could be a good thing, could be a bad thing, but you got to give it a shot. So by that time we been stationed in Holland, just outside Amsterdam.

So I was going to an American school on the American base. I remember I was staying with my granddad, who's whites at some of the side of the family, my mother's whites, Liverpool that's American from Compton. Go, go figure. Right. I'll stay with my granddad's one night. We lived in the next street. My mom was out or something, so I'll stay in there.

So on the way home, I cut through the park and this is in Liverpool, cut through the park and as to come out, they, uh, the police full up and, or not. And just making a little show, a couple of the police pull up, questioned me with you being there, standing there. So answer the questions where you go and told him where I was gone, which was probably five minutes.

Walk away. They I'd say offered, but it wasn't quite an offer. It's more of an order to get into. You know, even at that age, I was a little reluctant, you know, cause I'd had stories about other blacks getting in vehicles and parts of Liverpool and getting beats up and throwing in the back entry or the alley or something like that.

So I was a little reluctant, but there was two of them may. So a garden on the way to my granddad's they were saying, you know, so when we knock on the door, he's going to say, he knows. Well, yeah, it's my granddad's. Okay. Well, you know, if he doesn't know yet, then we're going to go for a little, take you on a little lift, this and this.

And I was like, okay, pull up. They get out and knock on the door. My granddad's there. And I could hear him. They said, do you know him? And he said, yeah, that's Shamar. Who is he too? Yeah, that's my grandson. And of course I think one of the police officers smiled because when we grind that opened the door and he seen that he was white.

'cause I said, it's that house right there. And when he opened the door to see any of his whites, the police officer kind of looked at me like you're in trouble. This isn't, he doesn't know you. You know what I mean? But then my granddad said,

yeah, that's my grandson Jamar. And they were like, okay. It was just coming through the park and we just wanted to make sure he got home.

Okay. So BME, granddad, he didn't understand ta-da race thing was he just looked at it like he had black grandchildren and loved them. No matter what, I remember him shaking the hand of the police officer and thanking him for getting me home safely, which I would have done despite them stopping me to question me for, I hadn't done nothing.

Remember they want a house and I was frustrated. Both at the situation that happens with the police, you know, I wasn't doing nothing, but then also the way my granddad reacted and no fault of his, you know what I mean? He just didn't see nothing wrong. Oh, the police, you know, that was nice at the police to drop you off.

Wasn't it. So then my mom came home, I told air and you know, Talk to me, Darden, you know, Timmy granddad and was like that wasn't right. The only reason he pulled him over was because of this reason, because he's a black man walking about no, no, no. They, they said they were just trying to get them home safe and make sure he got it.

And she's like, you just, you don't get it. You don't get it. But like that was the older generation like me, mom, literally. Shabby once she was like 1920, something like that, not in 1920 when she was like 19, 20 years old. And then she'd married me, dad and move to. At 20 years old was the only white lady in the neighborhood.

I just recently learned that they were living on Piru streets, where was basically where the gang started in Compton. So my mom had a best understanding of some of the issues I might deal with in the future consent and race, because she got the comments from YPO. When she was walking with my dad's or walking with me, she got the comments from black people when she, she got it from both sides.

I think she was trying to protect me as long as she could from having to deal with these issues. But then once these issues came up, she was already to sit there and let me know basically how it was the face experience in the state and England. But, you know, I say that, but I've been called, you know, nig, nog, you know, Charlie, you know, just cause the, every black man that worked in a factory back in the day around white people, they called him Charlie.

Cause it was an oxymoron of black, you know what I mean? The medic or chalky or something like that. So I've been called names, but you know, it might be in school growing up and, you know, you'd have a quick fight and that'd be the end of it. But as far as like racial issues, that was the first time the police had pulled me like that.

And then when I moved to the states, I experienced it quite a bit too. And it was quite shocking to me how blatant it was. It wasn't hidden. It wasn't some that you'd look at them and go, wait, was he just a bit racist to me? Did he mean it like that? It was just like in your face out a good friend out here, Alex is from long beach.

He's passing out great fellow dope. I was in the car with him. He made a U-turn quick in the street, buddy, forgot to put his headlights on or something like that. And it wasn't even dark. It was like, Dusk. So it was one of them ones where they could have let him go. Cause he probably put his lights on in five minutes, but he pulled them.

It wasn't a rough neighborhood. We lived in a rough neighborhood back then. So I was visiting, they got me, ultimately got me and him out the car and hands on the front of the car and asking questions. They started on this and took our driver's licenses and. As the other officers in the call running our names, and now I've got to the live, a bed on me leg.

It was small back then. I got, I got to cover it over and got a bigger one. But the police I'd only been there like six months, the police officer leaned in and said, what set do you think. And I was like, you know, mind's all over the place. And then I was like, I don't don't know what you mean. And the shine, the torch on the, on the tattoo, on my leg and said, walk gang, the UN.

And I said, no, no, no, that's, that's Liverpool. That's where I'm from. That's the football team I support. And he was like, oh, okay. So then the other officer came back and said, The we made Alex out a warrant out for his arrest for it. Wasn't a bad Fowler, but I guess he had a court date called and canceled it and rearranged it for a future date, but they hadn't put it in the system.

So he got a bench warrant because as far as the system was said, he didn't show up to the court date when he was supposed to do so. It was like, no, no, no out I rescheduled it. I got a court date next week, this darkness. So the officer that asked me what gang I was in, basically just based off of the Liverpool tattoo.

He said, you know, I'm pretty good. I said, yeah, yeah, he's a good fella. And he was like, so do you believe what he's saying? I said, well, technically if he said he rescheduled and I believe a reschedule. And he said, okay, I'll do you a favor? So I said, what? So the other officers putting cuffs on Alex, he said, if you can name my favorite soccer team, which I didn't correct them, I didn't say it's football.

He said, if you can name my favorite soccer team, I'll let them go. So I looked at him, ease on the hood of the car, in handcuffs, looking at me like, come on, you got to do this. So I'm looking back and forth with him in the office. I'm sitting there and I'm like, okay, we're in the states. They show man United games.

He showed Chelsea games. He show arsenal games, this set and teams that they show. So I knew it wasn't like south Hamptons or something like that. So I had like a good choice of like four or five teams. So eventually I just said arsenal and he went take the cuffs off him. So he took the cuffs off of him.

We get in the car and they tell them, Hey, make sure you take care of that. All carry the infamous, the proof that you do have another appointment in the future in case you get pulled again. So I always remember, like I said, he's passed now. God bless him and everything, a great fallow, but, um, he gets in the car and he says, Out of all the niggas in Las Vegas, I'm driving around with, I get pulled over with the negative, knows about soccer.

And he said, I love soccer now being an American, he didn't realize what he was about to say was wrong to a scout. Somebody said, I love soccer. And now I've got to go get one of them, arsenal shirts and start supporting them. And I was like, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. The Scouts are safe. It's a night. You don't go get the arsenal, share you, go get the Liverpool shares.

But the only issue we had was arsenal the same color. He didn't know, but Liverpool shirts red and the part of long beach, he grew up. He wouldn't, he wouldn't have been able to walk in there with the red shirts on. So that was like the first taste of police issues. But like at the end of the day, the police officer could have just said, oh, I don't care.

And took him away. But the fact that I've Lance over the years, You know, I'm six, four, good. I'm a big fella. Plus I got the ball, had some, a little intimidating the times I've learned a long time ago, how to pick up on people's little subtle facial expressions. So not against white people, I'm off white, the sadness.

It is what it is, but I walk into some rooms and there's nothing but white people in there. And I'll see the subtle eyebrow Twitch like that. They didn't realize they did. Like, what's he doing here? Why is he here? You know what I mean, stuff like that. And then I start talking to them and right away to go, excuse me, where are you from?

You have an accent and I go, oh, I'm from. And they say, oh, the Beatles and blah, blah, blah. And I go, yay. Get the Beatles and Liverpool football team, but to go the Beatles, Tennessee, the walls go down and the more open, but it doesn't make me feel great because of their initial reaction. When I walked in, it shouldn't matter if I'm from Liverpool, from Compton, from the Bronx, from wherever it's like, I see this flashing the rye or realization that.

And I don't use the word very often. I mean, I know I use it today, but that was saying what Alex said, but I get the feeling that the thinking in the heads and the process and it, that he's not a nigger he's European, therefore he safe.

That's so interesting on two fronts because. In the UK. Now you just be a mixed race man.

And yes, we do have this notion of one drop and it doesn't matter. You're black, right? Yeah. But from the sounds of things, you're just a black man in America. You're not necessarily a mixed race man in America. You're a black man in America.

Yeah. Yeah. Black man in America. Um, yeah, it doesn't matter. It's not mixed race.

They started this but another time. And this was probably about six months before George Floyd's did George Florida's. I'm driving. Got a decent car. It's not a stereotypical ghetto call with, uh, you know, the big rims and I didn't have the system to boom and nothing like that. Just a decent car. Nice car.

So I'm, I'm saying this about the car, because I was pulled over by the police for failure to tend to put the turn signal on, which I think I did, but as I tan that it clicked back up, but that's all. You're doing your job. No problem. So the reason I said about the states of the car, it wasn't like I was in a bad neighborhoods.

They could look and go, that's a black man driving a vehicle. I do believe they seen that I was black when I drove past them, but they pulled me. Okay. No problem me. Stepdad's the one that was in the air force. He told me years ago when we first moved to the states, what I need to do as a black male. If pulled

over by the police, which I've added onto it over the years, but it basically said, I don't even think he said if I think he said, when you get pulled over, when you get pulled over, put the windows down.

If it's nighttime 10, the dome lights on and turn the stereo down and turn the car off. And when the officer comes to the vehicle, have you had. 10 o'clock and two o'clock on the steering wheel. And then if they ask for license, registration, and they'll registrations in the car, I mean, in the glove box or whatever, then explain to them, I'm going to reach over the right hand.

The paper were just basically narrates the whole time. Once my kids started getting into the age driving, I call it the Morgan Freeman because Morgan Freeman just narrates everything doesn't eat. So I said, you need to just narrate everything like March of the penguins or something, you know, um, license, registration officer.

I'm gonna reach in the glove box with the right hand and take out this. And I even went as far as getting like the old CD things that used to go on to some viral. And I made sure all the kids out the insurance in there, just so they didn't have to reach over. I've landed as a black man in the states.

When you get pulled over, don't expect the officer to walk straight up to the vehicle. They're going to call back. You might've, you're going to be sitting there for five minutes on the side of the road while the waiting on the backup to come. So this day I was just calling back up. So I'm sitting there hands a 10 and two, two police cars come.

Now this isn't even in Las Vegas, Nevada, this is in Henderson, just probably like 20 miles outside of Las Vegas. Nice area in there. So not trying to brag, but it's a nice plate. Nice area. But, um, two vehicles. So it was the office of the pulled me and three of the officers. There was two in one-on-one in the other.

So as the officer's getting ready to approach, one of the officers goes on the passenger sides and he has his weapon drawn and it's pointed out my heads through the passenger window. Then I look in the mirror and the other officers got his weapon drawn and pointed at the back of me heads through the back window, right through the back window, the real window.

Then the officer walks. And he says, Judd know why I pulled you over. Like we said at the beginning, keep it Scouse, you know, every now and now I'm not going to go off on him, but I'm going to say something because the extent that

they went through, I knew I wasn't speed. And I didn't know, he pulled me for the 10 signal thing, but whatever it was, it didn't call for this.

So he said, you know what you, what I pulled you over for? And I said, whatever it was, I don't think. Calls for two weapons to be pointed one from the, at the side and one of the back of my head. So in true police fashion, I say, well, it's for your safety and my safety. And I said, well, you know, keep it Scouts.

I said, well, how about you? Have one of them pointed a weapon at. And then I'll feel a bit safer, which he didn't. And then he said, I pulled you over because you didn't put your turn signal on blah, blah, blah. So I said, well, I think I did, but sometimes I might tear, put it on as I'm 10 and it'll click off a little early.

And he was like, so I think it was the Airlie that I said, cause he was like, well, where are you from? You got an accent. And I said, well from Liverpool, England, do you live there? I was like, no, no, no. I'm in the states. I was in the military army to starting this. And he's like, oh, Liverpool, England. I said yet.

So nanny waved his hand above the car like that. And the two police officers left got in their cars and drove off. He pulled over a black man in the vehicle. He felt the need to pull, to have backup com go to the. Extreme of pointing weapons at my head. Then within 20 seconds of talking to him, he felt secure enough with me to tell them it's okay, you can leave.

Now. This is like two years ago, if, if two years ago. So it's not like I was a young kid, you know, I was driving a radical or crazy or something, but the fact that he pointed the weapon at me like that, the other two officers there and automatically when I said I was from England. He felt okay. Like I said before, he's not a nigger.

So my life's in no danger. He's all about tea and crumpets and Cheerio, which I've, I've never had anyone in England say Cheerio. You know what I mean? So we felt so comfortable with the fact that I just said I'm from England. I could have just watched top boy I'm being potent on the accent or. Brookside like you do or something like that.

But the fact that all it took was me to say, I'm from England, Liverpool, England, to where then he felt like his life was somewhat not in danger anymore.

Claire Clotney: Basically what you're saying to me tomorrow is I'm black until I open my mouth and then I'm British. And if I'm British, I'm safe. So if I'm stopped or if I get into a situation, I just need to start talking and I'll be fine.

Jamar King: I'll throw out all the way. That used to be the big one with the American girls in school, I'd be like, oh, you know what? I'm supposed to go to so-and-so, but I can't do it today. And they go, he said cans instead of cans. And I'll be like, got them. Around Americans, you get tired of repeating yourself when you talk.

And so I tend to slow down the conversation a bit pronounced words, a bit different every now and then, like I'm talking to an American, I'd be like pronounce words, a little different, you know, add a nice handbag. You know what I mean? The like a water and I'm like hamburger and they're like, oh, okay.

Little stupid stuff like that. If I do get pulled over or I'm dealing with. Law enforcement I'll throw the accent out there. I'll also throw out there the, as I'm getting the driver's license outs, I'll pull a military ID out from when I was in the military and to go, oh, military. So being British and military, that, that kind of helps out right there.

Claire Clotney: We've got to talk about UBN British in the American military. I mean, why not the British army? Why the U S army

Jamar King: I was living in the states 24. Just was dating a woman that I had two children and was working casino job. He has security there. They started this figured look, let's get married, join the army because my dad's American and my mom's English.

I've got dual citizenship. So I was able to join the American army.

Claire Clotney: You say you joined the American army cause he has stepped up, but you still have the choice. Y T is one over the

Jamar King: other. My mom and stepdad lived out here. I've got two brothers out here too. So from 19 to 24, this this'll be my home away from home.

Plus I'd met an American girl. So if I'd wanted to get married and go back to England, then that would have been a lot of issues and paperwork and this sadness. Plus, to be honest with you, I want to look at the. English military RAF and all that stuff. I know there is, but you always associate with them were

predominantly white and being around my stepdad, who's American, I seen on the air force base and went to school with blacks, whites, Hispanics, Italians, they stand there.

So it was more of a melting pot. So even though. I feel it, I never really gave it an option or a thought or go to their English military because I was in the states. I felt going to the American military. It just suited me better because it was a melting pot, basically. Of different individuals from different backgrounds.

Claire Clotney: That's so interesting. And that you saying basically the American army is way more diverse than the, I mean,

Jamar King: I do know people that were in the English services and they were black and they made rank, but I can honestly say the American army, there was kernels commanders, lieutenants the same with the same skin tone as me, I felt like in the American army, it was more of a case of.

They try to push you're a soldier. You're not black, you're not white, which isn't always, you know, if you get the hillbilly for, by Alabama or this, that, or this that's racist. And if they make the rounds. They're going to continue being racist. But in basic training, I met a fellow from Mississippi or something like that.

And I walked past them and he was just staring at his boots. And I'm like, why is he staring at his boots? So I kept walking. He hadn't said a word to me in a few weeks. Now in like two weeks, you haven't said to him, me. So I kept. Came back a few minutes later and he was still standing at the boots. I forget his name, but I was like, Hey you, okay.

I was one of the oldest there at 24 to join. Most of them were like 18, 19 stuff like that. So he's like 18 years old. I said, you okay? And he said, I feel stupid. He's a white kid from Mississippi. I feel stupid because I don't know how to tie the laces the way the drill Sergeant wants us to. So they wanted the crisscross.

You know, the laser's going across like that. He was used to just flipping over one loop all the way off. I said, look, this is what we'll do. I'll put my laces on. I'll take my laces out and put them on. You just copy me as I go. So we did that. And then the next day we would talk and he came up to me and he said, king.

I said, why? He said. I've never been around black people before. So what's, you know, what's like step back, like, wait, is he about to start something? I just

showed him how to do his laces yesterday. His family, his granddad was like the grand wizard of the KKK in Mississippi. His great, great, great grandad.

All, all his generations have been grand wizards. The leaders. Local chapter the KKK. And he said his school had no blacks and he'd been taught. The blacks were ignorant. They hated white people, this, that, this, that, and this. And he said the simple fact that you sat down yesterday and didn't ridicule me for not knowing how to do shoelaces.

He said the fact that you sat there and took your laces out and said, just follow. He said for the first time in my life, I'm questioning the things that my parents and grandparents and everybody else said about black individuals as a whole, I felt like I was a bit of an ambassador for blacks because this one individual prior to me just treating them like a human being, you know, just doing the right thing for them.

I felt like maybe he left there. Questioning or feeling a different way about how we've been told black square when he was being raised

Claire Clotney: since leaving the army, uh, what opportunities have been presented to yourself in,

Jamar King: uh, I left in 2005 since then I did go to college. Paralegal degree. Cause it kind of went hand in hand.

I was thinking about maybe going into law enforcement or something, but decided to go against that. I bump into a lot of people out there, which I feel when I talk to friends back home, how did you bump into them or are Jenga and would it be in Vegas? You do get certain celebrities that come through. I was in like this little.

I don't even act, but somebody said, Hey, would you want to be in this play? And I said, okay. Yeah, I'll do, it was in the play. It was about racial issues. It was a good play. We put it on a few nights. One of the individuals that was in it was Matt gasses from bras. His. Personal assistant. So she said, yeah, Matt's coming tonight.

I kept hearing her say Matt, when I was like, oh, you're talking about Matt. And she was like, my gosh. And I was like from bras. And she was like, yeah, him and his brother, Luke's coming tonight to watch the show. So I was like, bras is going to be okay. We're going to get the band back together. They need, I always felt he needed a little bit.

In the group, I've been around a few Caston agents, you know, a little get together parties, stuff like that. I've worked, especially John COVID I've where like COVID compliance officers, they call it the COVID snitch or the COVID police for like CSI Las Vegas, a few commercials. I've had the chance to play because of me size and you know, bald head and all that, uh, secure.

Gods and like films and stuff like

Claire Clotney: that. You're also very good looking. Let's keep it real.

Jamar King: Come on that just, you know, little less hair than I had back in the day, but

Claire Clotney: so cool here in a scowl being humble, it's free entertainment. I'm cracking off inside point blank, right. Would you say there are more opportunities for you as a mixed race man in America than there are in the UK?

Jamar King: There is more opportunities for me as a mixed race man in America. Then there, the reason the UK, and I would say that's not even just being. Uh, mixed race, Brit, I just say in general, you have more opportunities to rub elbows would sit and individuals that you wouldn't usually in England. Like I said, I've talked to friends in England, delight our year, getting involved in all this, you know, I was on the TV show, a game show where called some from the fresh prince, you know, How did you get on?

I just, I knew someone and they said, you want to be on it, this starting this out. Did you get in like a Chinese Netflix show as a security guard with the weapon and everything? I knew someone, they asked me if I wanted to do it, this, that, and this, which I'm not saying there's not opportunities for blacks mixed race individuals in England.

It's just that over here, you can fall into the right crowd. As opposed to be on the outside of the crowd, looking in, I wish I could be. And with those individuals talking with, um, hanging out with them, you know, so rather than have to wait to be invited into the crowds, me keeping it Scouse, I walk right in the middle of the circle and just start talking and good luck.

Stonehouse don't care that much sometimes. No, I'm not. I'm humble. I'm humble. I'm humble.

Claire Clotney: Jamal, how would you describe yourself to someone when they first meet.

Jamar King: How would I describe myself to

Claire Clotney: someone, if someone says, where are you from? Like, you know, if you're trying to keep it succinct, what's your identity?

Jamar King: I mean, my mom always said when I was young, she used to hate when people used to ask, what is he. And she go, he's human. What you mean? What is he, which she knew that were asking, is he black mixed race? This, that, all this, but then that's, what is he? Show is hate to say that. So if I was introducing myself to someone, I wouldn't do the race thing because they can look and see that I am black.

And whether as American say light-skinned which I hate. It's not light-skinned, you know, but they actually put an extra few days on the ends, always light skinned when I do get pulled by the police, if I do get pulled by the police, they recognize me as being a black individual. They don't say mixed race individual from England.

Please get out the vehicle. You know, it's, they're not doing that. So if I was to introduce myself, I'd want to treat them the way I want to be treated. Hey, how you doing? I'm Jamar some people call me J. And I just keep it Scouse. I'm not one of them wants to just force information on people because so many times people are fake and I hate meeting someone to go, hi, I'm bill and I'm an executive for blah, blah, blah.

And I do this. And I'm originally from so-and-so. No, if I'm interested in, you I'll find out that stuff, especially being black, I've got to assess the situation. So I can't come across. Hey, how are you doing? I'm Jamar, they starting this. Yeah, I was in the army. I'm originally from Liverpool. I've moved here. He's coming on a bit strong.

Isn't he? What's he doing here? You know what I mean? So usually I'll slide in, be subtle about it and say, hello, and this that and this. And of course they usually ask where you're from the accent. I tell them Liverpool. Yeah. Yeah. The Beatles, this sadness. So usually I'll allow them to ask the questions and I'll give the answers to them rather than just blurt everything out to them at once.

See blurt I've got to start using that around people too, because blurt is a good, strong word. So next time I get pulled by the police. I'll say blurt just to let them know I'm from England and I'm not a threat.

Claire Clotney: Jamar, Great speaking with you. How can people stay in touch with you and what you're doing?

Jamar King: Um, and right now, um, like I said, I was in the military, US military, so I was a mechanic, but because of my *je ne sais quoi* see, I'm bilingual too. You see there, I was sent to work at a prisoner. Which dealt with terrorists and possible terrorists. So, um, I've told stories about situations at the prison, some good, some bad, some humorous the book will be coming out probably in the next six months.

It's called, *As You Were*, it's in the finishing phase of editing right now. If you want to get in touch with me, find out about the book and everything Jamar King is a beautiful picture of me on Facebook. I don't know the Jamar King on the score, whatever, but you just put in Jamal king, Las Vegas, I'll pop right up.

You see this beautiful face. Instagram is Scouser in Vegas. Come on. I had to I'll surprise it. Wasn't taken. So Scouser in Vegas and Tik TOK Scouts are in Vegas too. And if anybody really wants to get in touch, then I guess they can get in touch with the individuals that run this great podcast. Then they can put them in touch with me.

So it was a pleasure. I had a great time doing this. Just, just treat people like human beings. It doesn't matter where you come from, color of your skin. This that and this. If you treat them the way you want to be treated, then hopefully I'll be reciprocated. If not, then that's their loss and just move on to the next one.

Claire Clotney: Jamar King reminded me how the one drop rule continues to play out in society and how this impacts black people of all shades, both in the UK and the U S it's been eye opening to see how respected the U S military members and veterans are treated yet, unless Jamar is in his military uniform. His skin is his uniform and he is not immune to the experience.

Of many black men in America, despite his experiences, not always being positive. He is honest about how being British in the U S has made the outcomes more favorable. And whether it's a Scouse accent, humor, or conviction, Jamar has made my mixed thoughts about colorism more black and white. To share your experience of being black in the UK versus the U S email us directly at americandreamerspodcast@gmail.com and please rate and review American Dreamers on Apple Podcasts.

It's the best way for people to find this podcast. Special thanks to Aurra Studios, our assistant producer, Brianna Jovahn, and editor, David Devereaux. Stay in touch with me on the socials throughout the week at Claire Clotney.