

I'm Not Just a Red Head

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Blondes are dumb, brunettes are boring, and redheads have no soul. These are some of the things everyone has heard being said from social media, school, and/or just your local places you go to. All throughout school I would hear little comments about being a red head; I was born with red hair, blue eyes, and freckles all over my face. In my family there are many redheads on my dad's side of the family, and it skips between each generation. Throughout school I would always hear people say I had no soul, looked like a clown, and some even called me "the doll" like the doll Annabelle from the movie. Most people would not find it a big deal, but when your friends and random people you do not even know make comments about the color of your hair then it will get to your head eventually. I think that having red hair does not define who you are and what you can and cannot do in like.

There have been many times that I have been judged by being a redhead. All of the that people say about them does not signify who I am, it only shows how people see others and them feeling the need to comment on these things. Being compared to a haunted doll that also has red hair, blue eyes, and freckles does not make me feel good especially since it has the same name has me, it is as if they are saying I look creepy and weird. I do not think that looking a certain way should compare you to something else, even along the lines of creepy dolls for instance. I think that red hair is special because not many people have that hair color. I also sometimes get the normal comments like, "Can you go out into the sun?" Yes, I can, I am not a vampire.

Comments like that does not bother me anymore because I am used to it, but people should not judge anyone based on their appearance.

Having red hair is not as common as having brown or blonde in certain parts of the world, most places like Ireland it is extremely common while other places it is not. The combination of red hair and blue eyes which I have, is not very common, around 17% of people in the world have that combination, that is out of the 2% of people having red hair. I have always been told I cannot dye my hair because I would not be able to have that natural color again. Whenever I am in public or at my mom's hair salon I always get told, "Your hair is so pretty, I wish I had that color" which it is very hard to get the natural red hair color when you are trying to dye it. I personally know a lot of redheads from school, most of the ones I know dye their hair because they don't like the color or do not want to be associated with it.

Many find other negative stuff about being a redhead not just because of the comments they say. Redheads have more sensitive skin because they have less melanin in them which causes them to burn more easily and have a higher pain tolerance. I even get burned in the winter when I go outside. I once had a teacher in high school who taught a science class and we were talking about stuff inside your skin that causes someone to burn or tan when they are outside, he pulled me up in front of the class to talk about redheads and them being more likely to get melanoma than anyone else and he said, "Even though she will burn easier in the sun from her hair, if she stands outside for 30 minutes she will not burn." Obviously, I told him he was wrong, and I would burn, he did not believe me. So, I went outside later that day and set a timer and my arms in fact did burn, science is not always right ladies and gentlemen. I think teachers should not be using certain students as examples for things because of their certain features. Many people have assumptions about how your body will react to certain things because of who you are, like they

whole “you won’t get burned when you go outside for 30 mins” even though it is not true. What most people do not know is I can get cancer from getting burnt over my already burned skin which makes it hard to go outside for so long without having high sunscreen on.

In addition, I have been called a hot head, fire head, and even been told I have a fiery temper. While sometimes I do have a temper when I get upset over something I never do anything out of proportion, I usually make a face and push my upset feelings down. I have seen many people with a horrible temper and none of them were redheads. Once while I was at work, I got upset at a coworker for not doing their job after I had asked her to do it multiple times and I did yell at her for it. (Was not very professional) My manager then told the coworker “Don’t worry about her, she just has a fiery temper.” That was the one and only time I had gotten upset at a coworker and I have worked at my store for over two years. Having a bad temper does not depend on your hair color. If I had blonde hair, they would not make comments about it like they do since I have red hair.

Anyways, many people judge redheads for their hair color and while many do find the color cool and pretty, most make fun of it from the stereotype’s others have created. I have learned to just ignore the bad comments and only listen to the good ones, I love the color of my hair and I feel like it brings out my personality and the goodness from my heart, I have always treated others how I would want to be and always find myself commenting on people's features that they might not like about themselves, if they have a different color eye I tell them how pretty and unique their eyes are. If I could change how people see others, and how they treat them I would. I think social media has a lot to do with stereotypes in the world; like in South Park where they had a presentation about red heads and called it “gingervitus” and said they had no souls and cannot be cured, they also compared it to being a vampire where they cannot go in the

sun. If TV shows and movies had more positive things about people and did not stereotype and hate on their characters it could help influence society to do the same, mainly so people do not grow up thinking it was the right way to treat others and make those types of comments to people. Whenever I see someone, whether they are a blonde, brunette, or a redhead I will not comment about whether they are dumb or boring; Instead, I will tell them how pretty they are because their features do not define who they are.