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Crumbling the "Oreo" Cookie

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Crumbling the "Oreo" Cookie

Abstract

They will treat you as if you have come from an outer space planet. They will be amazed by how much you are different from others. People will make jokes about how much of an "oreo" you are. How your chocolate cookie layers are thinner than your cream filling. [*excerpt*]

Keywords

beauty, black beauty, Civil Rights, discrimination, Gettysburg, Gettysburg BSU, Gettysburg College, natural hair, Oreo, Race, self discovery, Social Media, Stereotypes

Disciplines

Civic and Community Engagement

Comments

Surge is a student blog at Gettysburg College where systemic issues of justice matter. Posts are originally published at surgegettysburg.wordpress.com Through stories and reflection, these blog entries relate personal experiences to larger issues of equity, demonstrating that -isms are structural problems, not actions defined by individual prejudice. We intend to popularize justice, helping each other to recognize our biases and unlearn the untruths.

SURGE

[VERB] : to move suddenly or powerfully forward or upward

CRUMBLING THE “OREO” COOKIE

October 24, 2018

They will treat you as if you have come from an outer space planet. They will be amazed by how much you are different from others. People will make jokes about how much of an “oreo” you are. How your chocolate cookie layers are thinner than your cream filling.

Your music taste will be unacceptable. “How dare you jam to alternative music!” “You must not be black if you listen to that corny, white shit.”

Be confused when they start calling you black Dora. You won’t understand the connection. Yes, you are a brown skin girl with straight hair and bangs, but unlike Dora, you are deeply depressed and not as jolly as she.

Maybe it’s just a nickname or maybe they’re just making fun of you. You will never know, but it will always leave an uneasy feeling in your chest.

Even when the black kids won’t accept you for acting “white”, don’t think the white kids will accept you. They will always see you as a ghetto black girl and will treat you as such.

But don’t give up on yourself because one day you will scroll through social media and stumble upon hashtags appreciating the beautiful features of black women.

You will see images of black women embracing themselves and all the things that make them different.

Diverse representations of black women; independent, dependent, loud, quiet, thick, skinny, all the versions of a black woman that the media tried to cover.

You will see young black girls just like you who are confidently expressing their beauty and speaking up about civil rights.

You will look down on yourself for not being like that, wanting to be like that.

So, you start to educate yourself on issues and wearing your natural hair to demonstrate a difference within yourself.

But, you still close yourself off, not wanting to be deemed an angry, black woman who complains about everything.

And it's okay, you will soon learn how to be you unapologetically.

You will stop feeling guilty for not being what society thinks black women should be.

You will not feel sorry for not being a young mother, for not talking with ebonics, for not acting above your age, for not being disrespectful, and for caring about your education.

You will find yourself and will be content.

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