

A Letter to Little Jasmine

Dear Jasmine,

It might be too early to write you this letter. However, I would like to give you some suggestions for the situations, which you may encounter and face in the future. Since you and I have a similar family background, you might experience what I had experienced before. I just want you to know what kind of attitude or what kind of behavior you can do to face the dilemma. I try to let you know no matter what I learned from the theory or the real life.

Sexual orientation is a big issue in Taiwan. The stereo type is pretty strong, especially for those who came from the traditional society. People think it is weird to be a homosexual person. They think it is not normal. Moreover, they expect girls should act like a girl while boys should act like a boy. According to *Fun Home*, "It's imprecise and insufficient, defining the homosexual as a person whose gender expression is at odds with his or her sex." (Bechtel, 2006), we can know that stereo type is not always right. There is no right and wrong no matter what kind of sexual orientation you are. Even though we have improved a lot in this way, it is still not very easy to let the family accept it. There are groups of people try hard to fight for the right of LGBT. I just want you to know that you can be whoever you are. Every kind of sexual orientation is normal. Even though heterosexual is the majority, it does not mean that others are abnormal. You can be the one you want to be and do not be

afraid to do that. I think our family is pretty traditional. Even though the elder generation may feel hard to accept it, you can be the first one to break it if you were. You do not need to force yourself to do the things that you do not want to do. On the contrary, if were not, still remember to respect other people. You do not necessarily need to support them, but you need to at least show your respect.

As for the gender role, you do not necessarily need to wear skirt or use everything in pink if you do not like them. You can try any kind of sports if you are interested in. I could not learn Taekwondo when I was a kid because my mom thought it was the sport for boys. She thought that I would be too mucho if she let me learn it. However, it became my regret of not learning it. It is actually fine for women to be mucho. The image that the society made is that women should be weak, we need to rely on men, which is not true at all. If a man marry a woman, who earns more money than he does, he will probably be teased by other people. It is totally a weird phenomenon. I just want you to know that women can be tough, can be strong, and can be good at things. We are capable as men do.

Furthermore, our family has a strict restriction on body shape based on my personal opinion. This was what I had encountered. The relatives might criticize you because of the body shape since most of our family members are very slim. However, as long as you are healthy, you do not need to care about what other people's

comment. Be confident is a very important element to fight against these comments. Never lost yourself because of the comments. You should love yourself no matter how you look like. In advance that you are healthy, just be like you.

Based on the bluest eyes, "Along with the idea of romantic love, she was introduced to another- physical beauty. Probably the most destructive ideas in the history of human thought."(Morison, 1970), there are two key points here I would like to tell you. The first one is that romantic love is not always real. You might be in a relationship after being a teenager. However, I would like you to know that you could be smart in a relationship. Love is not the only thing you can have in the world. Be wise, and do not take it as your whole world. The second thing is about the physical beauty. I think the inner beauty is more important than the physical beauty. It is almost impossible to keep your face as beautiful as the younger age when you getting old. However, the inside beauty is what you can have for your entire life. You should keep your value in your mind. Also, if a man want to break up with you because you are not slim or this kind of factor, then he will definitely not be the right guy for you. He will not be the one that love you for the entire life. He will probably not love you anymore when you start to get old or fat, which means that he does not love the real you. All he love is only your appearance.

Moreover, no one can force you to do anything that you do not want to do. Even

though you are in relationship with someone, you do not necessarily need to have some sexual behavior with him or her as long as you do not want to. "The way it looks is not the way it is" (Lynch, 2005). The person that you feel so in love with could possibly be the one that hurt you. The point is that you have to refuse if you do not want to do it. You should have an awareness of that and be carefully of anyone in this way. "If you're anything like I was, you probably believe that whatever awful things may have happened to women in the past, or still are happening to "other" women today, cannot happen to you." (Chesler, 1997) It is important to have the awareness because this kinds of sexual assault or date rape are still happening in the society nowadays. Therefore, it is important to protect yourself. On the other hand, if something unfortunately happens, do not blame yourself for that. It is not your fault.

The last thing I would like to tell you is the women power. According to the book, *Female chauvinist pigs*, "Women who've wanted to be perceived as powerful have long found it more efficient to identify with men than to try and elevate the entire female sex to their level" (Levy, 2005), although it is pretty true, we still need to stand out for ourselves. I remembered an idea from a video, if we do not support each other and fight for ourselves, then nobody will. It is important to stand out. As I mentioned above, women can be tough, we can be excellent in many ways. We should always trust and keep faith on ourselves. Women are not accessories for men. We are

individual people. There is a sentence that I heard it from a video helps me a lot, which is “You are better than you think you could be” I hope it can keep the same faith to you. Moreover, in the book “*Gendered World*”, it provide many idea of gender bias. Self-objectifying is a big issue. I would like to remind you that do not affect too much by the media. The ideas they convey are not always right. Do not consider yourself as an item that need to fit in specific kind of images. The standards of beauty will not be only one kind.

These are the information I would like you to know. It might be many years later when you are able to read this letter. However, I think these idea will not change even though time is passing. I really hope this letter can helps you to be a positive person and learn to protect yourself in many ways. Just be the one who you would like to be and remember I will always be there supporting you, no matter what kind of decision you made or what kind of difficulties you are facing. I will always be the one that you can talk to and discuss with. I truly hope that you can have a happy, active, and positive life.

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