

I have been a Feminist since Elementary advocating for equality.



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In elementary school in gym class our teacher was a survivalist. He set up obstacle courses in the gym. He taught us how to read a compass. But he graded on ability and completion of tasks, not on effort or growth.

Well in elementary school girls can sometimes be disadvantaged. We were physically not up to the task. One of the feats we had to accomplish was climbing a rope. The students who could reach the ceiling received an A. The students who tried got a C. There may have been some Bs, but to us girls in the class it did not matter. None of us got As or Bs from this teacher. None of us could climb the rope more than a few feet. I think I did well in reading a compass but it was not enough to make up for my lack of upper body strength.

Well some of my friends were very upset by this. I remember one girl I think was one of my favorite friends. Her parents I think were missionaries or they did some kind of humanitarian work so she had lived in Africa. She showed us pictures of elephants and giraffes and monkeys, and she was in the pictures able to touch them. She looked like a Swedish girl. Blonde hair and blue eyes. Her younger brother was dark, not African, but I think Cambodian. He was adopted. I liked her. She and one other girl and myself complained to the school about disparate treatment. I remember having to go to the Principal's office to talk to him about our complaint and dispute. I do not remember the outcome. We did not get into trouble for it, though I think my father punished me for it.

In middle school and high school I did better in gym and in elementary I discovered a talent for 🏀. I was not spectacular but I was comfortable. In college and law school years later I even played with the boys. Yeah until i busted my knee I was a co-ed basketball player. But I think those early years in elementary school being pushed to stand up for equality had an impact on my choices later in life.

I have learned we still have far to go for equality. Women and men can judge women on standards men rarely have to live up to. Feminists in the form of men and women can be hypocrites judging the physically weak like animals do in the jungle instead of letting the weak grow strong and see beyond physical imperfection to the true value and worth of a person. I experience this a great deal in America for wanting to be an actor though more from non actors and lawyers who should know better. I am still the same girl I was in elementary school. I want respect and equality. You may judge me as not good enough but if you do so are you not a bully? Are you not toxic to me? I have had too many people tell me I am good at acting to not think of myself as good enough. I find people who want me to grow up and be a miserable adult with no faith in myself are the kind of people most self improvement gurus would say are the friends one should cast aside.

Still discrimination is often hard to see and sometimes people are unaware that what they do is unfair. I am not perfect but then that is just it. None of us should have to be, to be accepted as part of humanity.

