

# Reaching for the ceiling



ALYSSA  
HUMES

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From finding pants long enough to even having a woman ask me if I was a man being 6'5" is tough.

The average height for an American woman is 5'3"; I was 5'3" by the second grade. In public, people stare, ask me questions, and inevitably manage to leave me in the cookie aisle slightly annoyed.

People's stares never fail and it used to bother me.

I used to slouch when I sat down, hunching my shoulders when I would stand wanting to desperately fit in with everyone around me. However, when I reached my sophomore year in high school, I finally took more ownership of all 77 inches of me.

My mother (5'11") and my father (6'8") knew they were going to have a tall child. My mom always jokes, "I knew you were going to be tall, but I didn't think you were going to be this tall."

According to The Huffington Post, both men and women prefer women to be on the shorter end.

"Women's cultural vision is being feminine, having a man big enough to make her

feel protected. Many women hold this stereotype to a point where it excludes a lot of people they might be interested in otherwise," said Dr. Pepper Schwartz, a sociology professor at the University of Washington in Seattle.

When I was younger, I knew that I was different from the others I went to school with not only in height, but in attitude as well. It took me a long time to finally accept the fact that there was no surgery, pill, or exercise I could do to make myself shorter.

I went for a long time thinking that I was exactly what everyone said about me and that no one cared nor liked me. I did not even like myself, until sophomore year. I realized I was made this tall for a reason and I am meant to change the world. I do not know how yet, but I am.

Now, at 17, when people negatively comment about my height, I give them a death glare and keep walking. It doesn't bother me with what they say, but just the fact that they have to say something. When someone says, "You're really tall!" I just laugh. Thank you, I didn't realize I was tall when I put on my size 15 shoe this morning.

Without shoes, I'm just tall, but with heels I have an extra boost of confidence along with a few inches in height. Whether you're 4'11" or 6'3" (or anywhere in between), embrace your height. Being tall does not make me or you a freak, ugly, or weird. It only makes one that much different from all the rest. I know my worth and demand three times that with anyone I encounter.