

My name is Adrienne Baik. My blood is Korean, I was raised in Singapore, but yet I am a 100 percent American. Ask me where I'm from and I won't have an answer. The story of my life up to now, age 13, has shaped my hopes for the future. I was born in New Jersey, moved to Singapore at 5 months of age. Lived there for a joyous, amazing 10 years before moving to Hillsborough, California, known for its rich, white elders. No more is the loving Singapore that I had grown up with. Being Asian in America... is a lot of things for me right now.

I'm worried about what America thinks of us. I've constantly heard people saying, "You're so Asian" as a joke, and my only response is, "What does that even mean?" Is it because I have glasses? Thick black hair? Small eyes?

Guess what! It's not a joke to us. It's not a joke to us because categorizing people based on their race isn't funny. Yes, a lot of us are good at math. Yes, some of us eat dog. But not everyone! Children should not be told that they cannot do something simply because of their race. I've never told anyone this, but I want to be a baseball player. I don't think anyone would take me seriously if I told them this secret of mine, so for now, I keep it to myself and hope.

Furthermore, our looks. Our monolids and thick black hair, the opposite of the current beauty standards. Most Americans think Asian actors, singers, and models are pretty. Great, right?

However, one thing I've noticed is that their facial features are more Caucasian than Asian.

According to users on Reddit, most Americans find skinny noses, big, blue eyes and blonde hair to be the prettiest features for women. Maybe that's why Asians change their original face - so that people will think they're more beautiful.

There are days when I look at myself in the mirror and wish my nose wouldn't widen whenever I smile, and that I could somehow make my eyes bigger.

It's hard for me to admit all of my raw feelings. They're real, but I've always hidden them. Now, I'm sick of all the stereotypes. This injustice needs to be discussed way more than it is. It's downright racist and unfair for society to judge me, and all other Asians by our skin color.

My hope for the future is that all this negativity turns into positivity. That the future won't have to experience stereotypes like ours does. That young Asian America kids are treated fairly and can live life happily. We - the livers of the now - are the hope for the future. We can, we will be the change by informing the public on this issue and being proud of who we are and what we stand for. Let's do it for our past, the present, and let's do it for the future.