

What Being Tall Means To Me.

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Being tall hasn't been the blessing I was told it was going to be. Being tall looks amazing on paper, with the ability to reach the higher cupboards, control the paint in basketball, or generally be more dominant physically. However, being tall has negatively influenced many other aspects of my life. Whether it be the social aspect of people assuming I'm morally responsible to be a certain way or the challenges my longer frame brings, being tall hasn't been this perfect gift that people assume it is.

Being tall has surprisingly impacted my social life in a way I never could've expected. I have had real conversations with people whom I just met who have derailed the main topic of conversation because I let slip the fact that I wasn't the type of person they expected me to be. They treat me differently from them, with them saying, "You're tall, you have to play sports," and then casually send a flurry of insults my way, like how I'm a waste of height. Even the people I call my friends now, at one point when we first met, a large majority of our first conversations were initiated by me, and when questioned about this, they've answered that I looked scary to talk to, or how in some way they were afraid of me. Of course this isn't everyone, I have a normal social life and people who don't care for my height, but it's still weird how some have this preconceived notion of me because of my larger stature and nothing else.

Other than the social challenges, being tall has had surprisingly negative impacts on my physical well-being. An ongoing joke in my family is that no bed in the house can fit me. Coming from a middle-lower-class family means that we don't have money to spend on new

bed frames, we just can't afford to accommodate my every need. But every night when I go to bed my legs hang over the edge, and I've never been able to feel truly comfortable in what's supposedly the most comfortable part of your home. Alongside this, I experience the typical tall person issues: Constant back problems, knee pains, slouching, joint pain, etc. these issues are amplified because (as of right now) the biggest benefits of my height have been in sport-related activities, and as someone who doesn't participate in those types of activities, It's almost like I'm experiencing all of the downsides with really a small portion of the benefits.

After speaking generally negatively about my height, one might assume that I despise it or have disdain for it. Funny enough, it's on the contrary; I quite like my height, and I am still thankful to be this way. Being tall to me has been a set of societal expectations, constant back pain, passive-aggressive mockery, and no legroom in any confined space. However, being tall has also been the ability to help my elderly grandparents. It's looking over crowds and spotting things from further away, and it's been a tool always accessible to me. Everything has its positives and negatives. Being tall has definitely changed my life, whether it be for better or for worse, I can't say, but what I can say is that being tall isn't the perfect benefit to your life that society claims it is, but it's certainly cool.