

the ONE where I don't fit the **Stereotype**

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I'm a **man**

You don't need to know my name

[in fact I'd rather not say]

What you do need to know however

is although I'm a man

I don't really fit the stereotype

you know the one where...

Guys are from a certain planet

different to where girls are from

They are strong and silent

unemotional

can't multi-task

da-di-dah

WELL IT JUST AIN'T ME

Don't get me wrong

I'm totally straight

[that's never been in question]

But

I can multi-task

identify a car only by the colour

and am a hopeless romantic

I have no interest in anything mechanical

the relationships I love are the heart ones

and I don't drink beer

I cry at movies – especially chic flicks

like to cook and be creative around the home

and wear a pink tie to work

Oh, and did I say
I'm totally straight
You know what though
after 50 years or so
of not fitting in
I'm comfortable now with whom I am
free to be true to myself
I'm a man
totally straight
who doesn't fit the stereotype

I'm a **teenager**
You don't need to know my name
[in fact I'd rather not say]
What you do need to know however
is although I'm a teenager
I don't really fit the stereotype
you know the one where...
adults seem to think
that all we talk about [or rather 'gossip' about]
is hair, make-up and fashion
boys, boys and more boys
The one where we love to party
are rude to our parents
always have our rooms in a mess
and hang around in gangs scaring old people
WELL IT JUST AIN'T ME
Don't get me wrong
I've got all the usual teenage hormones bouncing around
My body's changing [yuk!]
and I struggle like others of my age with

peer pressure
mental health
and self-image

But

It's like I'm in one of those movies
where the teenager and the adult
switch bodies
live each others' lives and then
switch back

[except with me it's kind of a permanent deal]

I don't know if I was born like it
or influenced to be like it

What I do know
is that I don't fit the image
of a stereotype teenager

I'm a **Christian**

You don't need to know my name
[in fact I'd rather not say]

What you do need to know however
is although I'm a Christian

I don't really fit the stereotype
you know the one where...

I go to church on a Sunday
read the bible regularly

and want [or expect] everyone else to believe the same as me

WELL IT JUST AIN'T ME

Don't get me wrong

I love God

massively love Him

totally in a relationship with him that's

so real
so relevant to my life
But
I just don't do church
Did
but don't any more
End of subject
So I'm shunned by most Christians because
I don't fit into their box
I don't play the game
I don't people please just to fit in
After years of all those things that I
don't do
[and absolutely won't do]
I've come to a place of peace with myself
[though it's led to war with others]
and I've given my rude finger gesture
once and for all
to the stereotype Christian
End of subject

I'm a **woman**
You don't need to know my name
[in fact I'd rather not say]
What you do need to know however
is although I'm a woman
I don't really fit the stereotype
you know the one where...
in my culture
a woman stays at home
cooks and cleans

raises the children
serves her husband
WELL IT JUST AIN'T ME
Don't get me wrong
this isn't an issue of sexuality
it's one of
choice
lifestyle
expectations
Everyone has tried to correct me
to change who I am
to make me conform
Parents
friends
husband
But
I have my hopes and dreams that are
beyond the home
that will never be fulfilled
in the home
Sometimes I feel like I don't belong anywhere
that no-one understands me
like I'm just so rebellious
[even though I'm not trying to be]
I can't help what's in my head
I didn't put it there
and I've no idea where it came from
The end result of it all is clear
clear as crystal
I just don't fit my cultural stereotype
for me

as a woman

I'm a **student**

You don't need to know my name

[in fact I'd rather not say]

What you do need to know however

is although I'm a student

I don't really fit the stereotype

you know the one where...

teachers teach

and I'm supposed to learn

to read and write

[words words and more words]

WELL IT JUST AIN'T ME

Don't get me wrong

I love my subject

passionate about it

I cry out for the system to allow me to shine

show the talent and wisdom that I have

let me learn in my own way

[the one that suits my personality]

But

I just don't learn in the way that they teach

Why is it that most of my best learning is done in

my time

and when I'm on

their time

[with their so-called experts]

I seem to learn nothing at all?

I need to find the right environment

and it's certainly not here

where I feel trapped and boxed in
suffocating for lack of air
I long to learn
yet I don't fulfil the stereotype
of what they call
education
of what they call
learning
of what they call
a student

I'm from a **certain cultural-religious group**
You don't need to know my name
[in fact I'd rather not say]
What you do need to know however
is although I'm from this particular group
I don't really fit the stereotype
you know the one where...
all men are terrorists
just longing and planning
to go and blow something up
and before you say you don't think like that
I see the look of fear in your eyes
and how when you see me coming towards you
your children are gathered up close for protection
or when I take my family on holiday
you are staring at me in the airport
terrified for your life
based only on a stereotype formed by
the media
and certain parts of society

WELL IT JUST AIN'T ME

Don't get me wrong

I take my culture seriously

I take my religion seriously

I take my upbringing seriously

But

I was born in the same country as you

have lived in the same country as you

and will probably die in the same country as you

[of natural causes without an explosion in sight]

I share similar values to you

I shop in the same places as you

and my children go to the same school as yours

So I beg you to rip up your stereotype

dare to be different from those around you

and give me a chance as a fellow human being

don't assume the worst

don't put me into a false box

and don't be prejudiced against me

based purely on my culture and religion

I'm a **dad**

You don't need to know my name

[in fact I'd rather not say]

What you do need to know however

is although I'm a dad

I don't really fit the stereotype

you know the one where...

my parenting role

is to go out and earn the money

do the practical jobs

play sport with the kids
[with maybe a bit of shooting and fishing]
and leave all the rest to mum
WELL IT JUST AIN'T ME
Don't get me wrong
I take seriously the responsibility to provide financially
and I can certainly do practical stuff
But
I'm not a dad who's distant emotionally
[no 'strong and silent' for me]
I share emotion
and encourage emotion in my kids
girls and boys
I listen
without trying to solve everything
I remember all the special occasions
and put in time and creative effort to celebrate them
I play Barbies
[with them, not on my own]
I talk about matters of the heart
and am totally switched off by surface talk
I share my kids burdens
and try to support them
I spend ages chatting to them
with no subject off limits
I do the school runs
and join in the school activities
Oh
and I find it really hard to relate to most dads
because a lot of what I do
is often what a stereotypical mum does

So I'm a dad
who's more like a stereotype mum
Go figure!

You don't need to know my name
[in fact I'd rather not say]
What you do need to know however
is I don't really fit the stereotype
you know the one where...

I'm supposed
to act
in a certain way
to speak
in a certain way
to follow the crowd
to fit in
never stand out
never be different

WELL

IT

JUST

AIN'T

ME