

I Wish I Was You

Never talk aloud or take up too much space, you're not as important or as special as a boy; never open your mouth too wide to eat, a girl must have a tiny mouth; remember playing sports is for boys, you can only watch them; never show your slut-like dance to others, neighbors will start to think I am raising a prostitute; *but... I really enjoyed dancing...* this is how to greet a man, this is how to thank a man; always agree to whatever the man in the room says, I shall hear no excuses; don't lick or suck on your popsicle, it makes the man uncomfortable, it's rude to make someone uncomfortable you know that; *how should I eat my popsicle then?; bite on it; but I hate biting on cold things...* always talk to the man with a smile, *what if I'm sad?;* what you think or feel don't matter, always make sure the man is satisfied and happy when with you; learn how to make tea by the age of 9; never let a man find out about the filthy week of your monthly habit, don't remind him of how gross your body is; don't wear tight clothes, it distracts the man; now wait right there!; don't go out looking like the slut you are; this is how to cook Ghormeh Sabzi, every man's all-favorite food; *but I don't like to cook...* never turn your husband's desires down, and never ask for anything more of whatever he's already given you; always keep your legs together and closed up, never open them; learn how to be a good housewife by the age of 13, to don't be an embarrassment in front of my possible to be sons-in-law; *but I don't want to get married at 13 mom...*

a girl is a good housewife, who always behaves the best, likes children, cooking, and their husband, who doesn't play sports; none of these are me... I want to play sports, I want to dance, I want to laugh aloud, I don't want marriage, I don't like to cook, I...don't want this gross body... was I supposed to be born as a boy?; because I am not what my body says I am... I wish I was born as a boy so I could play sports, study, be loud, be myself...

Don't cry like a baby, a boy is strong; *but it's hurting...* you better learn how to be manly, and not a weakling; don't be sensitive like a little girl; have only guy friends like other normal boys do; be more practical than creative; nail polish, make-up and dolls are only for girls, you're a boy; cut your hair before it gets to your neck, having long hair as a boy is not manly; now that pink shirt is too girly, change into something more masculine before anyone sees you in that!; *I like the color pink though...* learn to get violent and aggressive so you won't get bullied by others; this is how to be demanding as a young man; be fit and not skinny, a boy must be muscular to be noticed by girls; liking other men is not manly, you can only love a girl; *does that mean I am not allowed to love my friend, Arlen?;* always figure things out on your own without the help of others, a true man is independent; this is how to hold a gun; this is how to fire a gun; *I don't like to use guns though...* learn to get aggressive and violent to show your manliness; always defend your reputation, use physical aggression to do so; go to the military after high school; *but I want to continue my studies...* get a wife after finishing your military services, a beautiful wife who can carry your children; *but dad, what if I'm not ready for marriage or s...e...x...?;* a real man never says no to sex, so man up; be the one who proposes to their partner; and always keep in mind that, you pay for everything as the man; be protective of your future wife and daughters, never let another man near them...

a boy doesn't cry when he's hurt; a boy is manly and strong, is muscular, isn't afraid of guns, likes girls, beautiful girls; I am none of those... does that mean I am not a boy? Does that mean I wasn't supposed to be born as a boy? I like pink, I also like my friend Arlen, I don't want to be violent or aggressive... I wish I could be a girl so I could wear pink, like other boys, let my hair get long, study, and don't go to the military and not have to like sex... I-