

The truth about being a girl – Aija MAYROCK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZM57oTu9Ng>

(Men listen up. This poet and activist has a message about your presumptions of women today.)

1. People always say that the girls of this generation are so vain.
2. Why can't they put their brains towards books instead of good looks?
3. I used to blame girls too.
4. Be more than a perfect body with a pretty hairdo.
5. And then I stepped out into the world.
6. I opened my eyes to the truth about being a girl.
7. I heard guys say things like « Dude she was ten times tighter than that girl you hit and quit, Ray, »
or « I want to p*** your sister someday.»
8. or « Her a** looks like a race track with those stretch marks. But at least it's big like Kim K's. »
9. I never grew up thinking of those things.
10. Don't blame me, but when I thought about boys, I thought about dinner dates and soulmates, not
f*** boys that look at you like shark bait.
11. It breaks my heart for every girl growing up in this world.
12. Instead of « How was your day? » messages,
13. we get « You up ? Wanna come f***? »
14. I am not an object. I have a voice and something to say.
15. Do not assume that I belong in your bedroom.
16. I belong in a conference room and for anyone who thinks that this generation is so vain, it's
because us girls are held under a microscope day to day.
17. It's like beautiful doesn't even exist unless you can cross everything off the checklist.
18. Big butt, big boobs, skinny waist, include small nose, plump lips, bony hips, hairless, careless but
still has an awareness.
19. In all fairness I want to be seen as beautiful too.
20. I mean, I don't want to be demeaned.
21. I mean, I'm not the same girl I was at 15.
22. I mean, I'm stuck in between being a girl and a woman, growing up in a world that has taught me
to look sexy, get a degree, maybe a little rhinoplasty but never, never disagree with misogyny.
23. A world that has not taught me that being a woman is living in fear that your basic health care will
disappear. Or that your paycheck might somehow be smaller than a man that does the same job, or
that your boss might tell you to stop giving him b***** eyes, if you want to raise, you gotta
compromise.
24. Show me what lies above those thighs.
25. Boy, please.

26. The moment you misidentified everything was when you forgot that not even a hundred years ago, I could not vote.
27. Look at what happens when you try to demote the very bodies that give birth to you, please.
28. We are used to it all and we are appalled but you see, we don't know what it's like to be free.
29. Equality is not just about calling someone out
30. Equality is accountability.
31. That my brother knows that I am equal to him.
32. So, equality is education, from classrooms to courtrooms to conference rooms and computer screens.
33. It is using tech for good, for #MeToo, for movements.
34. Equality is truth, is strong voices, is breaking through the silence that exists, because silence can't exist if it's not tolerated.
35. It is all of you.
36. Changing the future.
37. Clearing the path for every woman and every man.
38. It is raising the next generation to know that not only does their voice matter, but it will be heard, and that's why we got the power in our hands, because we will not sit back and nod and smile while certain people reconcile the rules to be fertile.
39. Sorry but it's my body, baby.
40. I may be a young lady but my dad always taught me to speak out and fight against injustice of every kind.
41. So, here I am, speaking out for all my ladies in the house.
42. We will not stop the fight until we hold our rights for women of every color, size, shape, sexual identity, and place in this world.
43. And that is the truth about being a girl.