

Burgeoning Biraciality:
What it Means to be a Young Mulatto in America Today
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FAMILY AND CHILDHOOD

1. *How did your parents meet, and was there any racial tension between family, friends, or others when they decided to get together?*

I think they were working for the same bank, in different branches, and they met at a work cruise. That's basically all I know of how they met. Then they got together, and my dad's family – my dad's black, my mom's white – was fine with it, and my mom's family was not okay with it at all. I think they met in 1988, and were married in 1990. My mom's dad didn't really care that much, but her mom was completely against it, and her sister went along with what her mother was saying, so when they got married, my mom's mom disowned her, and they haven't spoken since 1990. My mom's tried to send her birthday cards or like, "Hey, I'm having a child," and my grandmother just didn't acknowledge it whatsoever. And occasionally we'll see my granddad, her dad, but she has to call his work phone because she can't call the house phone, 'cause if her mother picks up, it'll be a bad story, so he's kind of going behind her back to talk to her, and she hasn't really talked to her sister at all. And we live in Wilmington right now, and they live in North Reading, which is a town over. So they live a town over, but I've never met my aunt or my grandmother.

2. *Lenny Kravitz said of his childhood: "I grew up not knowing about race until I... went to school... My parents were the only parents that didn't match." (Guthmann) Were you always aware of race when you were growing up, or was there a moment you remember becoming aware?*

I don't really remember being unaware or aware – it was always just how I was living, and how I grew up. I went to a private Christian school from age two to eighth grade, and there was another boy who was in my class who was also mulatto, so it was never really a thing. Once I got to high school, then it was like, "Oh, you're half black," and it was interesting. I went to Tewksbury High where there was maybe three black people in our class, so out of my friends I was the "blackest" person, so it was kind of a running joke, but I never really remember it being a thing where I was aware or unaware of it.

3. *As time passes and race relations change in America, have the ways others respond to your parents being an interracial couple also changed over the years?*

They're not together anymore. They split up when I was 15 or 16, so I don't really remember anything about them being together or not. I do remember my mom mentioning at some point that people would ask if me and my brother were adopted, and

she'd be like, "No, they're not, they're my kids."

4. *How did your parents raise you and your siblings, if you have any, as biracial children; i.e., did they agree on trying to give you the benefit of both cultures, or were you raised in more of one culture than another, or was this perhaps a point of tension between your parents?*

My mom was always very aware that she was raising children that might be viewed differently, so she always tried to make it "Okay, you're black, don't forget," and we were like, "We don't really care." I remember this one VCR tape we had called "My Friend Martin," and it was this cartoon of Martin Luther King Jr., and these kids that go back in time to hang out with him, and we would bring it in to school every year on Martin Luther King Day, and we'd watch it. So she was always trying to make it a part of our lives, so that we would not be uncomfortable, but we never really were. We were always, "Well, this is just how we are." We never really experienced any bullying or any negative aspects when we were young from it, so it was never really an issue. My dad, though, he – it's very weird, my dad has a very "white" personality... when my friends meet my dad, they're like, "Wow, Caitlyn, your dad is so white." I don't know if it's because black people are usually looked at as "ghetto" people or something, but he was raised in a suburb, in Billerica, MA, and granted, his family was one of like two black families in the 60s. And he's different than his older brother who is more "black." But it's not like our family was, like, out of place – it didn't feel like my parents were of different ethnicities. It felt like they were on the same level, and my dad never really made a big deal about that, and he actually hates the term African-American, because he's like, "Well, I'm not from Africa, my family hasn't been from Africa in generations – I'm just black – that's my skin tone, I'm black."

5. *Leona Lewis said this of when she would get teased as a child: "I'd go crying home to Mum and she would say to me, "You're a beautiful girl and you're a part of me and a part of your dad. You don't have to do anything but carry yourself with pride'." (Das) Were there any messages or values your parents instilled in you with regard to your mixed heritage?*

Not really. Being of a mixed race wasn't really a problem. I was never bullied as a child, so I didn't have to experience that. But my mom always – she would try to say, "If anyone says anything, it doesn't matter," prevention-wise. My dad never really said anything about it.

SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

6. *Did you grow up in either an ethnically diverse, or non-ethnically diverse area, and was your school population mirrored by that town or city?*

From ages two to eighth grade, I went to a private Christian school in Wilmington, MA, which is a predominately white suburb, so it wasn't very ethnically diverse. There was another mulatto boy in our class. It was never really a problem. I don't know if it was because it was in a private school where it was so small. I don't know why it was never a problem – I'm not complaining. Then when I got to high school, I went to Tewksbury High, which is also a predominately white suburb, where I wasn't really teased – I wasn't

bullied, but it was a running joke. Like, I would consider myself very “white,” like, if I was looking at, ethnically, who I related to most. I’ll put down black and white on questionnaires asking your ethnicity, but I’d consider myself more white just how I’ve been raised and where I was raised. So I was the token black kid amongst my group of friends, even though I can’t dance, and I can’t play basketball, or any sort of “black” thing.

7. Derek Jeter said this about experiencing racism at school: “Kids would say [the N word]; you’d hear it. It would bother you and annoy you, make you feel bad. [But]... It taught me how I didn’t want to be, that I needed to learn about different people as opposed to just judging them.” (ABC News) Did you experience any racism at school, and if so, what was it like for you?

I can’t really think of anything. I’m pretty lucky. Now that I’m in college, and because I’m a theatre major, because I want to be an actor, part of it is figuring out what “type” you are, and it’s so hard to figure out where I am, because I could look Hispanic, but I don’t speak Spanish, and I’m not black enough to play Beneatha in Raisin In The Sun, but I’m not white enough to play the blonde Ingénue. We actually had a workshop a couple of months ago with Greg Alan Williams, who was on Baywatch, and is going to be the mayor in District 11 for the new Hunger Games movie, and I was talking to him about that whole type thing, and what type I should be, and he’s like “Well, you could be all different types. There a lot of parts where you don’t cast for it – it doesn’t matter what ethnicity you are.” So it’s something good, and I can take advantage of that, but right now I’m in a place where it’s kind of freaking me out, but I can play different things so I need to explore that more, and this guy was saying at the workshop, “Well, you do look Hispanic, so maybe you can make a headshot... and how about the name you put on your headshot at the bottom – just be like, Caitlyn... Ramirez or something, just put a Hispanic last name, so that the first thing that they see is something that they associate with –” (*I ask, “You can lie about that?”*) Yeah, I guess so... He’s like, “Well, people choose stage names all the time, so it’s just like using different stage names for different auditions. Or maybe it’s just association-wise – if they see a Hispanic name, and they’ll picture you as Hispanic.” So he’s like, “Learn Spanish, and then you have another niche you can play into.”

8. What is your education experience like now, attending Salem State, which is the second-most diverse school of all 20 Massachusetts state and UMass schools?

Is it really? It’s pretty much felt the same. I didn’t know it was so diverse, but because there is obviously more diversity, I haven’t felt so, like, out of the loop. It’s not that I ever felt bullied or ostracized, but I just didn’t completely feel like I was completely white, or, I didn’t fit a category. Here, I’m still finding – I want to fit somewhere, but I don’t feel the need so much to fit this exact category, because there’s more people around.

9. Did you know how diverse Salem State was when you applied to the school, and did that have any sway in your final decision to attend? Do you think schools with a range of diversity are a better thing than a school with less diversity?

Yes, I feel like more diversity is just necessary to know more about the world. And I think part of college is just learning more about your environment and your world. And if

you're kind of stuck in this one-ethnicity place, you're not really experiencing other cultures as much.

10. Have you had any difficulty being accepted by certain groups here on campus, or the opposite - being automatically accepted because of your skin color?

(I ask, "Have you experienced reverse racism?") Not really. I'm pretty light-skinned for being half black, so it's not like I'm automatically – I guess, yeah, I'm more automatically accepted into the white sphere, because I remember last year in the freshman dorms, my hair was down, and it's very curly, and this girl who, I wasn't really friends with, but she was on my floor, and we were friendly, we were both kind of outgoing people. She was friends with a few of the black girls on our floor, and she's like, "Hey, did you know Caitlyn Jones is half black?" And they're like "What?" And I'm like, "Yeah, I am." And then they're like "Oh... I didn't know that." And I'm like, "Yup, my dad's black and my mom's white," and they're like, "What black are you?" And I've never had anyone ask me that. And I'm like "What black am I?" And they're like, "Yeah, I'm from Barbados, where are you from?" And I don't know, because my dad never made a deal about it. He's always just like, "I'm black, and that's it." *(I ask, "You never asked him?")* No, I never really asked him, and I asked him after that. So I do know that I'm part African, like, from slave ships. My grandmother is from Naches, Mississippi, and she moved up to Massachusetts when she was an adult, but she's from Naches because that's where the slave ships landed however many years ago. I know that the grandson of the slave who landed straight from Africa married a Cherokee woman, so I know I'm part Cherokee, and I know I'm part Irish. My grandmother on my dad's side, her father is half black and half white. My grandmother's father's father was Irish... but I don't really know where exactly my "black" is from, and I never thought about that until someone asked me, because I've never had that happen to me. People have asked, "Oh, your mom's white, what is she?" And I'm like, "Oh, she's a little French, a little Dutch, a little English, Irish, and some Native American," but I've never had anyone ask me what "black" my dad was. I don't know if that means – 'cause the people that are asking are usually white, and usually don't know what the differences between the different types of black are, or if – I think that's probably the case. Also, being from Tewksbury and Wilmington, I get more white people asking what I am than black people. 'Cause people do ask, "Oh, what are you?"

FRIENDSHIPS/DATING RELATIONSHIPS

11. Throughout your life, have you become friends with people of a variety of different races, or mostly one or two races?

Most of my friends are white. Mostly when I was growing up in Tewksbury and Wilmington, it was all white people around me, and also, the few black people that were around me were more "black," and would speak with ebonics and had their own culture, and I didn't really fit that, so I just gravitated towards the white people. In college, in the theatre department at least, there's like two black people, and the one girl I'm friends with who's black, she's from Reading, and that's also a very "white" suburb, so she's not very "black" either... I don't know how to describe it – maybe I'm just really racist and like white people. I've only dated white men before. My first boyfriend was white, upper-middle-class, from Tewksbury. My current boyfriend is white, upper-middle-class, from

Medford. I don't know, that's just how it worked out.

12. If you have friends who are also mulatto, do you feel like you relate to or can connect with them in a special way, or do you have different backgrounds and thoughts about race than they do?

The people I do know who are mulatto, like Ben [Kirk] and Amanda [Cooper] and the kid who I went to elementary and middle school with – it was kind of a bonding thing, like “Oh, Halfies, yay,” ...but we never really talked about what race really meant to us, except I had like one conversation with Ben [Kirk] when he was telling me about your project. It's nice and interesting and cool to have someone that you can relate with... but we never really delved into the subject so much. My cousins are half black as well. My father's older brother who's black was with a white woman, and had five children, and then he was with another white woman and had one, so I have six cousins who are mulatto, but I do not connect with them at all. I don't want to say the sole reason is because of this, but most of them are – I don't really see them very often, so I can't say this for sure, but – they are more “black” than I am. It feels like they are of a different ethnicity than I am. We're all mulatto and we're all in the same family, but it just feels like there's kind of this separation, because my dad is a “white” black man, and their dad is a “black” black man, and they also grew up in Lowell, which is the town over from mine, but is very diverse, and a completely different atmosphere than the suburb I lived in. (*I ask, “What are the specific things that are different about them?”*) I think part of it was, my brother and I grew up going to a Christian school, which was more sheltered, and they grew up going to public schools and everything. And our mothers were completely different people. But growing up, they would listen to rap and hip-hop all the time, and I listened to more just like, pop. My cousins' situation is different – they lived with our grandmother for a while because their mother couldn't take care of them, and then a couple of them got emancipated once they got old enough, so they have a very different living situation than I did as well, so that's probably part of the reason that we don't connect as well. One my cousins has a very “ghetto” personality... So... some of them, the way they speak is very ebonics, like, “Hey girl, wassup...” The cousin that I was just talking about, she had a daughter when she was 17, and then she had a son when she was 19, and so that also put another rift between us, because she's only four years older than me, and we were kind of closer when we were younger, but as we got older, our personalities shifted completely, and we have different values and different living situations, and it was hard staying connected.

13. Oprah Winfrey once said that she wished she could be light-skinned as a young woman, because the light-skinned women were always the ones that were most pursued by black men. Were you ever picked on for being a particular skin tone by any racial group? Do you think there is still a color-tone hierarchy?

Throughout my daily life, not. I am very light-toned, so I don't know if that has like, put me in some higher position or something like that, I haven't really felt that. Sometimes I feel out of place with my cousins who are all darker-toned than I am, and even my younger brother is darker-toned than I am, so that's even more of a rift between me and my “black” side, and it's so hard just connecting with that because I don't look that black and I don't feel that black. I hate using “black” as a term of personality, but... My

grandparents and my aunt moved to New Mexico about eight years ago, and we visited them when I was in eighth grade, and I came back... and I see my cousin, and she's like, "Girl, you have no color. You went to New Mexico and you came back with no color?" And I'm like, "Well, sorry." So, it's weird feeling so light-skinned sometimes when the rest of my family is darker-skinned. And because I don't associate with the white side of my family at all – like, I've met one my uncles like three times on my mom's side, and I've met her other brother's wife and his kids like once or twice when I was little and I don't remember them at all. I actually went to high school with and graduated in the same grade as my cousin who is my mother's sister's son, but because my mother's sister stopped associating with her when my grandmother did, he didn't know we were cousins. We had never met each other. I got to school, and freshman year I was friends with one of his friends, and my mom told be ahead of time, "Don't develop a crush on this one kid, because he's your cousin." ...So I knew who he was, and I ended up meeting him, and my friend was just like, "Hey, did you know Caitlyn's your cousin?" And I'm like, "Thank you for telling him that way." He's like "What?" I'm like, "Yeah, your mom...? ...My mom [and your mom are] sisters." And he's like "Oh... I didn't know I had a cousin." And the thing is, I don't know if he knew my mom existed. So he had no idea we were related. (*I ask, "Do you still talk, or are you allowed to talk?"*) I think we're friends on Facebook... but we never really talked in high school. If we needed to say something to each other, it wasn't that awkward, but never really had a need to because we weren't friends. We were family, but we weren't family because he didn't know we existed, so we were never a family support system at all.

14. Have you dated whites, blacks, mulattos, or entirely different races from yourself? And if you have dated more than one race, how have your experiences differed in accordance to the meshing of both of your respective heritages and cultures?

(*I ask, "Did the families of the guys you dated accept you?"*) I... half-dated his one kid before my two boyfriends, but he's gay and my best friend now, so I don't really count that. He's white too, and I kind of grew up with him because he went to my church, and I love their family... so that was never an issue. But for my current boyfriend and my boyfriend before that – they had no problems with me, they completely accepted me, but I remember specifically meeting this boyfriend's family, and it's kind of like, "Uh, are you gonna think I'm weird because I'm not white?" And I think part of that goes to my mom's mom just disowning her, but there's always just a tiny bit of me that's like, "Are you sure they're gonna accept me? What if they don't because I'm not white?" But they never had a problem with it. And my boyfriend has mentioned that his grandmother is somewhat racist, so... I haven't had an opportunity to meet her, and I don't know if I ever will, but that'll be an interesting roadblock when I hit that. But... People have been more accepting than I thought they would be.

15. If you see yourself getting married or having children, do you see yourself most likely marrying a person of a certain race?

If it's not my current boyfriend, it would probably still be someone who is white, because I've never really been attracted to black men.

SELF-IMAGE

16. What is it that constitutes being a particular race – is it more cultural and environmental than color-wise, more nurture than nature?

I think part of it is definitely skin tone, because if someone is of a darker skin tone, you're like, "Oh, you're black," and that's the first thing you see about them, no matter how they act. So people notice that I'm not completely white because my skin tone is slightly darker, and my nose is slightly wider, and my hair is very curly, so that's how they know I'm not completely white. But when I think about it, I definitely think of it as more cultural/environmental, because my culture and my environment, the way I've been raised, has always been of "white" ethnicity, that's what I identify more with. My brother's somewhat different, though, so I don't know. We were raised in the same household, we've been through most... of the same experiences, he also went to the private Christian school until he was in eighth grade, we did go to different high schools, so that might have been a little different. He went to the tech school. But he does have a darker skin tone than me, and people will see him as black more than they see me as black, and he also tends to be all "Dope and up in the hood" and "Whassup" – jokingly, though. So it's weird. He had an afro for a while. He didn't take care of it, so it didn't look very good, but he was proud of his afro.

17. Throughout your life, have people ever been surprised when you told them you are mulatto? Did they ever guess any other variety of ethnicities that were wrong?

...On my way coming back from New Mexico, in eighth grade... I had gotten my hair relaxed and straightened while I was in New Mexico – my grandmother is a hairdresser, so we were always like, "Grandma, can you do something with my hair, or have someone do something?" Because my mom did not know how to take care of my hair when I was little because it was insane. But... it was really long and straight, and I think it was my grandmother, but I'm not sure who said it – someone said I looked Native American. And I mean, I'm part Native American, but that's not my total genetic makeup, but I looked very Native American, so that was interesting. Usually, if people are going to mistake me as something, it's Hispanic, because I look more Hispanic than I do black or white. Mostly, I don't know what people are thinking, they just say, "Hey, what are you?"

18. Have you ever, or do you feel uncomfortable with either side of your black and white heritage (or in more specific terms of your ethnicity, i.e. Jewish and Haitian)?

I don't usually think of myself as Irish or Native American. If people ask, I usually say I'm half black and half white and I leave it at that, unless they're like, "Oh, what type of white, what type of black?" And I never really think of that until I'm asked, because... I don't nitpick all the different cultures inside of that. I remember one time for Saint Patrick's Day, I'm like "Oh yeah, I'm Irish," and they're like "Caitlyn, you're black," and I'm like, "I'm half black! And I'm also Irish." (*I ask, "Who was saying this?"*) I think it was just one of my friends. They're like "You're Irish?" And I'm like "Yeah I'm Irish, I'm mostly Irish." Because my mom is mostly Irish I think, and there's Irish on my dad's side too, so I'm like, I am Irish, thank you.

19. Race-wise, do you feel like there might be a side of yourself that is hidden, either subconsciously or on purpose? If so, do you want to reveal it?

(To further explain the question, I explain how I started to feel like I should explore my

black heritage in college, and how I started doing this by attending some black and multicultural events on campus.) I definitely can relate more to my white ethnicity than I do my black, and I'll see things for the multicultural associations, and I still feel like, too "white" to be a part of these things. "Oh, I could go – no... I could – no, not really... I'm too white for that, it would be weird." And then because I've had, like, "white" experiences growing up, and that's what I associate with, if someone were to ask me about – I don't even know how I would respond to it. I don't know how to put this – I just feel too white to be black. I feel too white to be black. But at the same time I'm like, "But I am black," but I don't know what that means.

20. *Bob Marley said this about being biracial: "Me don't dip on nobody's side. Me don't dip on the black man's side nor the white man's side. Me dip on God's side, the one who create me and cause me to come from black and white." (Lowney) Depending on who you happen to be around (i.e. a certain race or culture of people), does your self-image in terms of your race differ? Or, in your daily life, do you tend not to think about or notice your race?*

From day to day, I don't really think about it unless it's mentioned. If I'm around a group of white people I don't think about it, but if I'm around a group of black people, I feel really white. When I was in New Mexico visiting my grandparents, they were attending a predominantly black church, and I felt so white in that church. Skin tone wise, me and my brother were the lightest people there. I'd never been to a church where it's like, "Hallelujah, praise the Lord" ...kneeling down, lift your hands up – I'd always been to a white Congregational church where we sit, and then we stand, and we sing, and then we sit, so that was a complete culture shock. I'm more uncomfortable if I'm around a group of black people than if I'm around a group of white people.

AMERICAN CULTURE/CURRENT AFFAIRS

21. *Although we are coming up to a presidential election soon, America has now had four years with a mulatto president. What do you think his election and presidency means to American culture, and the often-controversial, often-shifting racial environment of our country?*

It's funny because I've never really thought about it. What I have thought about is, do people even realize he's mulatto? 'Cause most of the time people are like, "Oh, black president," and it's like, "He's half black, actually. Did you know that?" He didn't even grow up with his black family. I think it's a good thing for America because, again, I think being in diversity is better than not. Because if you're stuck in your zone of all white people, it's harder to associate with people who aren't. And I think the same thing is true in reverse, like if you're stuck with all Asian people, or black people all the time, it's harder to associate with people who aren't of the same race as you are, and I think I have that problem too, because I'm with white people still more often in college, but I think that having a black, mulatto president kind of shows that, "Oh, you don't have to be white for things..." I don't know, I haven't really thought that much about it. That's kind of an important thing to think about, though.

22. *Do you think that, in America today, it's still necessary to pick either solely black or solely white social groups to be accepted, or is it more complicated?*

I think it's definitely more complicated than that, especially if you are a mulatto person who could fit into either side. I think you shouldn't have to try to pick a side, I think you should just fall in to where you're most comfortable in. And sometimes that is with one side or one group of people over another group of people.

23. *When asked about her daughter Nahla's race, Halle Berry said, "I feel like she's black. I'm black and I'm her mother, and I believe in the one-drop theory." (Weiss) Although Halle Berry is technically mulatto, she sees herself and her mixed daughter as black. Does anyone in your family categorize you as one race or another? If you decide to have children, how do you think you would choose to handle your children's races? (I explain the one-drop theory to her to explain the question before she answers it.)* How people viewed me – in my family at least, I think my grandmother, my mother's mother, probably views me as black, because she hasn't made any effort to know me, or to know that I'm a good student, I graduated high school, I'm in college – she doesn't care about any of that. So I think she views me as black, because to her, I'm not good enough, and I'm not worth knowing, I guess. I think my grandparents on my dad's side, I don't think they really care, because most of their grandchildren are mulatto. I don't know if they view me as black or as white. I've never really had to think about that as much, because I've known that they've always just accepted me for who I am... How I would refer to my children – I have no idea. I think they would know that I'm half black and half white... assuming I had children with a white man, which I probably will... I don't think I would make a big deal about them being part black, just because I don't really make a big deal about me being part black... (*I ask, "Are you going to teach your children about black culture like your mom tried to?"*) My mother tried very hard to – she even got a Kwanzaa Bible or something, and I'm like, "Mom, you have no idea what this is saying..." I appreciate what she did, definitely, but I almost feel like I didn't need it, or maybe I did need it, and maybe because I didn't focus on it so much, that's part of the reason why I associate so much with being white. But for my children, I don't think I have that drive to push them to knowing that they're part black and that's okay, because I kind of feel like they should know that already – or, they're children, they wouldn't know anything already! I think it would all depend on, one, their appearance, whether they look more black, because kids are kids, and there's gonna be kids that are like, "Oh, you're black. Why is your hair different? Why isn't your skin the same color as mine?" And if that comes up, I'll be like, "Yeah, you're a quarter black. Look at your grandpa, he's half black, and you still love him, right? And he still loves you." So I definitely think I would say it is okay, like that's just part of who you are, but I don't think I would emphasize it, like, "You should be proud of this." I would be like, "This is who you are."

24. *Lenny Kravitz said this about his parents' relationship: "[My parents] would walk down the street (and) people would spit on them... very disgusting things. My father lost his side of the family 'til I was born." (Guthmann) This memory Lenny related is well within living memory. How far have we come since then?*

I think we've come far, far from that. I think spitting on someone because they're an interracial is not a normal thing, and it's not an acceptable thing. I think if someone does that, there are more people around that would say something – or I would hope that there are more people around that would say something like... As someone who hasn't really

been bullied for being half black and half white, I think that's a testament to where the country is, or where it's going. I know that's not the case for everyone, but I think as a whole we've moved forward. I think we've come along way, that we're on the other side of history, and there's a very small minority that views interracial relations as something disgusting. I think some people are still confused by it, just because they're very stuck in like, "Well, this is my race, this is your race, why would we be together?" But I don't think they're disgusted by it.

25. What is the most important thing you feel you have learned about yourself and how you fit into the world as a young American mulatto?

...I don't know, I don't like this question, because I don't know what to say. *(I explain some of the details of why I am doing the project, and how I would answer this question – realizing it's okay to be in a racial liminal zone, and not forcing myself to change, but letting myself learn more over time.)* I think that for me – don't judge me... I feel like as a mulatto person, I'm, as a while, I'm comfortable with how I am. But I'm always going to be kind of questioning who I am and where I am, and who I should associate with and who I do... I wish I associated more with my black side – wish I could, and I can, and maybe I'm not trying hard enough to, because I'm just comfortable where I am, and I don't want to... I've struggled more with it as I've grown up. It wasn't really something I struggled with at all when I was younger, because, maybe I was just completely ignorant. Maybe I was being teased and I just didn't notice, or maybe people did look at me really weirdly when I walked down the street with my mom, and I just didn't notice 'cause I was little. But as I get older, it's something I'm noticing more, it's something that I have to notice more just as my career. Being an actor, if I want to play black roles, I'll have to identify myself as black, and that's hard for me to do. I think, in general, I'm just confused, and I think it's confusing being a mulatto person.

Addendum to the interview:

April 17th 2013, 8:05 PM via Facebook Mobile:

Caitlyn Jones

I -just- received this email from my mom and though you might want to use it. She doesn't mind if you do. It's just so timely.

"I had sent a birthday card to my brothers wife in Feb. Didn't hear anything. I sent an Easter card to my sister. Haven't heard anything. I sent a birthday card to my mother, who used to send them back unopened. She sent me a thank you card addressed to Dear Judy with her cell phone #. I thought I would let you know, since I had included the shiny sticker you had wanted to give her as a child."

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