

The Life of a Mixed Kid

I'm gonna give ya
what's never been done before,
like court case "Loving v. Virginia"
never been done before,
like a white man loving a black woman
never been done before,
like an entire generation
of mixed kids without mixed mentors
never been done before.

I am going to give
you the life of a mixed kid
in less than four minutes;
all I ask is that you listen
and imagine our position.

1. Some of us like fried chicken
and Karen's potato salad.

2. Do stop asking
"what are you?"
Human.
—Oh! Did you mean ethnicity?

3. We politely request
that you do not stare
and resist the urge
to touch our hair.
(How am I supposed to keep my curls frizz free
with your hands all up in it?!)

4. Your insistence
that we are "too black"
or "too white"
is offensive, discriminative,
racially insensitive,
and this sentiment

has left more mixed lives
outcast and ostracized
than you could possibly imagine.

5. I am confessing:
I love Electric Light Orchestra
and Otis Redding,
equally.

6. Nix the trend
of mixed kids as fetishes
because it's evident
that most of y'all don't want the verb
that makes the adjective.

7. Acceptance of our reflections
is harder than you'd think—
imagine growing up dissimilar
to everyone you see
and the need to fit in
conflicting with your identity.

8. Great hair products
are hard to find.

9. I am sometimes terrified
of falling in love
with someone black or white
'cause I never want
to have to choose sides.

10. A friend of mine said
the need to choose sides is
racism at its finest.
We are both.

11. Less than 3% of America is biracial.
We are often alone.

12. Delve into history.
See the effects of slavery
on those of mixed race
who received hate
from both blacks and whites,
so they had to hide
as one or the other.
You perpetuate this mentality
by asking me
to choose a color.

13. The worst thing:
exclusivity,
when the mix
we didn't choose to be
keeps us from community.

14. Soaring,
when I finally accept
that there is no war
within me.

15. Sunscreen
—half of us be needing it
and half don't.

16. Switching codes;
if you're listening,
you would know
I've switched from AAVE to GAE

17. Ever seen a mixed church?
If not, you should try it.
God didn't design his bride to be divided.

18. The great thing
is seeing people from two races
holding hands, embracing,
and loving one another

for and beyond the color
of their skin
for the human within.

19. I've seen this many years
through mixed eyes,
and I now recognize
that the mixed kid's biggest heart-cry
is to be identified
as human.