

DISABILITY—IT'S ALL IN THE EYES

GET PEOPLE TO LAUGH WITH YOU—NOT AT YOU

REMEMBER ME FOR WHO I AM. MANY PEOPLE MAY EXPERIENCE A BAD HAIR DAY OR A FASHION DISASTER, THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO RECOVER. THOSE WHO HAVE A DISABILITY AREN'T AS FORTUNATE. I DON'T PRETEND TO KNOW OR UNDERSTAND ALL DISABILITIES

PERHAPS PEOPLE WITHOUT DISABILITIES FEEL THE NEED TO POINT OUT THE DIFFERENCES IN APPEARANCE OF OTHERS. A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY MAY POSSESS OUTSTANDING INTELLIGENCE, BUT FIRST AND FOREMOST THEY WILL BE CLASSIFIED AS "DIFFERENT" SIMPLY BECAUSE OF LOOKS.

TO COPE IS TO SURVIVE AND THE COPING MECHANISM IS WITHIN EVERYONE. MY SENSE OF HUMOR, HAS BEEN AN INVALUABLE TOOL IN DEALING WITH THE LESS-THAN-CONSIDERATE REMARKS OF AN UN-ACCEPTING PUBLIC AT LARGE. IF YOU CAN GET PEOPLE TO LAUGH WITH YOU—NOT AT YOU—THAN THE CHANCES FOR EMBARRASSMENT AND RIDICULE ARE GREATLY DIMINISHED.

THE ABILITY TO SMILE WILL BE A MUCH MORE REWARDING ACT THAN YOU MIGHT IMAGINE.

DESPITE THIS AGE OF POLITICAL CORRECTNESS THERE WILL NEVER BE AN OVERALL ACCEPTANCE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. SOCIETY IS GEARED TO JUDGE BASED ON LOOKS. THE TRICK IS TO FORCE PEOPLE TO LOOK FROM THE INSIDE OUT, AND WHEN THEY CAN DO THAT, THE VIEW IS REALLY QUITE NORMAL

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