

# My Short Hair

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“Why don’t you cut your hair short?” my mother asked when I was in elementary school. I replied, “No way! Long hair is better.” At that time, I was uncomfortable with short hair because none of the girls around me had such a hairstyle. I took it for granted that women had long hair.

Let me tell you a story that changed me. When I was twelve years old, I saw an interesting video on my smartphone. It was of someone dancing in an anime character costume. In other words, cosplay. The person in the video was dressed as a boy with a vivid blue costume and short blond hair, dancing happily. I was so attracted to its coolness and started watching his videos.

One day, I heard his voice for the first time in one of his cosplay videos. His voice was high-pitched and soft. As soon as I heard it, I found that he was actually a woman. I felt a big surprise as if heaven and earth had been turned upside down. I had misunderstood her to be a man because every time I saw her cosplay, she had a cool vibe. The cosplay videos made me realize that I was caught up in a gender stereotype. I unconsciously believed that being cool should only apply to men and being cute only to women.

Before watching cosplay videos, I had always tried to be cute. I had long hair and wore skirts because that seemed girly to me, and all my friends did the same. I believed I should behave the same as everyone, which made me comfortable. However, the cosplay videos showed me that we are all free to express ourselves as we are regardless of gender. We have different beliefs, interests, and identities. Everyone needs to respect each other’s differences.

I am lucky to realize the gender stereotype within me. Now, I enjoy my style with all my heart and soul. Look at my hair! I cut it short. I also began to wear pants of my own choice. There is nothing wrong with a girl being cool, I didn’t think so before, but now I do. What I want to say is, don’t be afraid to be who we are, be true to ourselves, and celebrate our uniqueness.

One day, my mother asked, “Why don’t you grow your hair long like before?”. I replied with confidence, “Don’t be silly! I love my short hair. This is me.”