

JUST A GIRL.

Lucia Padron '26

I'm just a girl, they say
With pretty white ribbons in my hair
I'm just a girl, they say
Yet older men tend to stare
Eat all you want!
Stop! Don't eat that!
Take your time, Hurry up, Know your place
How come you always stay up so late?
Go out! Have fun! Find love!
You're too young to date
I don't know where the line is for being too old or
 for me to act my age
Study hard, do your best!
That's not enough
Start the car, slam the brake
Of course you can't parallel park
"She's so outspoken, how annoying" when she speaks her mind
"She's so quiet, I can't hear her" when she's shy
"Attention seeker" is what they'll call her when
 she tries to look her best"
"She needs to stop rolling in the dirt,
 that's how pigs come along"
"She needs to go out more, instead of playing with dolls"
"You're just a girl, what can you do?"

The man said to the hopeful engineer who's dreams
shattered the moment the words left his mouth
"You're just a girl! All you do is sit and clean the house!"
Said the man to his wife, who lets out an exhausted sigh,
 holding an cranky baby while she cries
Be at work! You need to be a traditional wife!
Why even bother when all of our attempts give us strife?
Girls are stronger than you know, they just need time to grow
Girls can think on their own, stop telling us where to go
Societal norms have grown to much,
 so now it leaves all of us "just girls" confused

I'm just a girl, who wants to be a girl
Not dainty
Not tough
Just enough
I don't want to be "just a girl" anymore
I want to be "a girl"
Who loves who she is until the day she dies



JUST BARELY. Karen Galego '24, Pencil & Marker