

# Uncool

BETH (15)

I just want to say, it isn't easy being a teenager...and it isn't easy being a teenager that looks and acts like me. Let's face it. Those other kids are right...I am a dolt...and a nerd...and a loser...

It's not that I'm complaining...well, maybe just a little. I know there are lots of girls more attractive than I am...more stylish...more athletic...more popular. And I can accept that. I really can.

I can accept it because...deep down inside, I know I have things to offer, too. I mean, I'm smart. I care about people. And I...well, maybe that's it. Maybe that's all I have to offer. But why isn't that enough?

I mean, why does high school always have to be this big, intense competition for status points? Why do the popular kids have to pick on us less popular ones? It isn't fair...They already have it all... Why do they feel they have to protect their position in this stupid social order by throwing everyone else down? Can't they see how much it hurts? Or do they just not care? (softly)

All my life, I've been just a little slower, a little uglier, a little more awkward than everyone else.