

HAS NONE OF THE QUALITIES

(Things that I say in this story are not my personal opinion, but based on implicit bias.)

It's Sam's first day of Life Guarding class. She wants to be there on time. Unfortunately, as soon as she leaves her house, her car won't drive. She has to take public transit. She arrives at the pool 20 minutes late because of this. When she arrives, they are going through a "get to know each other exercise." The instructor gives her a funny look and looks irritated because she was late. She tries to explain but he cuts her off. "We'll just add you into our activity he says" with a glare. "What elementary school did you go to?" He asks. "Red Wall" She replies. The instructor rolls his eyes at this. He thinks it's a bad elementary school, and starts to base his opinion of her off this.

To get into this class, you had to complete a form. On it, Sam put her name as Sam. The instructor assumed she was a boy. He really wanted a boy. He would have been better suited to the job. (or so he thought) Sam also put her personal attributes. She said she was good at math, good at following instructions (not a leader), gets things done on time, but procrastinates. The instructor has already based his opinion of her off this. He wants a life guard that is a leader, because the rest of his life guards need to be led. He doubts that she is good at math, after all, she's a girl. He doesn't care if she gets things done on time, the word "procrastinate" makes him doubt even that.

That day was horrible. The instructor ran them to the ground. Sam didn't know if it was just her or what, but he seemed to be pushing her harder than everyone else. Then again, everyone else identified as male. She wondered why he was treating her differently. Today was her second day. She hoped it would be better!

The moment Sam arrived late to her first life guarding class, the instructor got really irritated. His last girlfriend had been a redhead. He hated Sam because she reminded him of his girlfriend. And Sam was short. He only liked healthy people, and she was clearly not.

Sam doesn't know how to do a good dive. She was hoping that this class would help her. On her first time trying, she does an epic belly flop. She sees the instructor shake his head. The next guy that goes, doesn't do much better. He manages to go in head first, but his feet make a huge splash as they enter the water. She sees the instructor slightly nodding, with a small smile on his face. She starts to get irritated. She knows the guy's dive wasn't that good. So why did he seem happy with it?

The instructor was horrified by Sam's dive. He thought girls were supposed to be graceful, and she was clearly not. He was glad the second guy's dive was better though. It was pretty good actually. At least someone could dive. Compared to someone's perfect dive, it was terrible, but compared to Sam's, it was great!

Sam is outraged that the instructor seems to be treating her differently. She decides to confront him after class. He tells her something that makes her even madder. "Well, you have a crooked nose. Aren't you supposed to be pretty?" He says. Now she knows the problem. The instructor doesn't like how she looks. Or even that she's a girl. She shakes her head, and walks out. So much for becoming a life guard.