

The People Skirt

The people skirt was a pencil skirt that had black and white drawings of people printed on it. It was cotton and form fitting. It was a skirt for skinny people. I was not fat but not skinny either. The people skirt cost fifty dollars. I wanted the people skirt for many months but couldn't get it because I was having a jaw operation. After the operation I lost a lot of weight so I was able to fit nicely into the people skirt. I wore a yellow tank top with the people skirt. There were no rolls of fat because I was skinny from the jaw operation. They wired my jaw shut for six weeks, and I could only drink instead of eat. And I couldn't really talk or yell or scream because my jaw was wired shut. My mother told me nice girls don't walk and smoke. They don't wear short skirts and Doc Martins and motorcycle jackets because it's not feminine. She did not tell me about the people skirt. Player's cigarettes are for men. She did not say anything about the people skirt which was form fitting. If you get pregnant, get an abortion, she said. But she was really talking about herself and what she would have done if it had been legal. This is why when I walked through the empty parking lot toward the library and got yelled at by some men on their lunch break, I was taken aback. I had never been yelled at like this before. Like a women. Like a woman. I'm fifteen I wanted to shout to shame them the way they had shamed me. But I didn't because I couldn't because my jaw was wired shut.

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