

the broad side

Real women. Real opinions.

An Apology to Street Harrassers

by Aliza Worthington on [November 1, 2014](#)

courtesy of feminist wire.com

Dear Gentlemen,

Please accept my apologies for overreacting to your innocent attempts to “be friendly” and to your kind “encouragement” regarding my looks.

I respect your goals of introducing love and improving my self-esteem in, what is too often, is this cold, hard-hearted world. Why can't more men be like you?

I've been watching you, and I was so pleased and impressed to notice that you direct your remarks to old men, women in wheelchairs, police officers, and toddlers who pass you by, so clearly you're NOT simply trying to get the attention of an attractive woman you'd like to see above you naked.

Clearly you're NOT singling out pretty females for your impressive persistence when ignored; I've seen MANY of you following a businessman with a briefcase around asking him why he won't say 'hi' back to you. After all! You're just trying to be friendly! Oh, if I had a nickel for every time I saw you asking the guy selling hot dogs why he isn't smiling, taking the time to explain to him that he makes so many people happy every day. Don't even get me started on all the overweight women who callously reject your attempts to let her know she is just fine the way she is. What is WRONG with them???

I swear, I've even seen you befriend homeless people offering to take them to job training, and asking to help an elderly woman carry her bags to the bus! How can they miss the nobility of your motives? Why don't they see you're just trying to make the world better and make people other than yourself happy? How can they not see the innocence of your intentions? Again, I ask, what is WRONG with people?

Don't they see how harmless and well-meaning your compliments are? After all, when your younger sister is the recipient of such remarks, don't you beam with pride? Of course you do! You put your arm around her and say, “Way to go, Sis! You've made it!”

Why, if your friendly kindness was in any way untoward, you wouldn't thank the other gentlemen who make similar remarks to your girlfriend! No, you'd get possessive and threaten to beat his ass! But that

never happens – you always just wholeheartedly agree, and high-five the man for saying such nice things about your girlfriend (whose confidence, of course, is bolstered!)

The number of ways I’ve misinterpreted your “kindness” and completely non-threatening, non-intrusive, non-objectionable attempts to interact with me and other women on the street makes me want to weep for your suffering. How you’ve been victimized is an absolute disgrace. I hope you can find it in your hearts to forgive my self-involved obsession with personal space and safety. I don’t know WHERE I got my bizarre aversion to being asked if I “want some of this right here?” This **feminist** streak that makes me shrink inside at your displays of “appreciation” has GOT to GO.

How could I have misjudged you so? I have seen the error of my ways, and I promise to try to do better.

Signed,

You’re right! I really SHOULD smile!

Share:        

Related Posts:

- [For All the Young Women Who Think Feminism is BS](#)
- [Jill Abramson to College Grads: “Show What You Are Made Of”](#)
- [Jill Abramson in Her Own Words: Women “Get Autopsied in Ways Men Don’t”](#)
- [#HillaryClintonBookTitles: Hillary Hashtag Shows Conservatives’ Fear](#)

💎 [apology](#), [catcalling](#), [featured](#), [sexism](#), [street harassment](#)

[◀ Christine Quinn, The Women’s Equality Party and \(Spoiler Alert\) Rowlf](#)

[The Lessons of Boston Mayor Tom Menino ▶](#)

Get The Broad Side in your inbox:

No comments yet.

Leave a Reply



Name (required)

Email (will not be published) (required)

Website


Submit Comment☐ Notify me of follow-up comments by email.☐ Notify me of new posts by email.

POPULAR

LATEST

COMMENTS

TAGS

**The Jezebelification of Feminism**

OCTOBER 27, 2014

**Christine Quinn, The Women's Equality Party and (Spoiler Alert) Rowlf**

OCTOBER 30, 2014

**Why Does Amelia Earhart Matter?: To Be But a Challenge**

OCTOBER 30, 2014

**Are Hillary Clinton's Clothes Signaling Her 2016 White House Decision?**

OCTOBER 29, 2014

**Wise Words from Bridget Jones on Our Current Obsession with Renee Zellweger**

OCTOBER 22, 2014

Get The Broad Side in your inbox!**Support The Broad Side**

The Broad Side is a group of independent journalists dedicated to bringing you thoughtful and thought-provoking opinion pieces you won't find anywhere else. We plan to keep ads/sponsorships to a minimum, so if you enjoy what you read here, please consider becoming a member of The Broad Side with a recurring monthly [donation](#).

Option 1 : \$5.00 USD - monthly ▼

Subscribe

You can also become a one-time patron with a single [donation](#) in any amount:

Donate

Tweets

An Apology to Street Harrassers - <http://t.co/OvJtFZiKT4> 3 hours ago

Before getting fired at NYT, #jillabramson said women get "autopsied" in ways men don't <http://t.co/vDjKsoeotY>
#JAWS14 #jillatjaws 2 hours ago

Further Thoughts on "Sparkle Science" - <http://t.co/9ermdE8S08> 10 hours ago

Is the new Women's Equality Party really about women? <http://t.co/Jqp1cFBzET> If so, why was it started by a man?
#politics #women 19 hours ago

Will pop culture be the end of #feminism ? <http://t.co/BqaOoNDChC> 1 day ago

[Follow the_broad_side](#) on Twitter

Find us on Facebook

**The Broad Side**

3,073 people like The Broad Side.

Rachael
RutkowskiTodd
TraubJoseph
UrbanErin
ForrestEilise
Lane
ServiesSandi
Renae
MathewsMichelle
Kruger-
WiebbeckeAshley
Dianne
Smith

Facebook social plugin

© 2014 The Broad Side. All Rights Reserved.

Design by **LEAP**. Powered by **WordPress**.