

I Freaking Hate
Mother's Day



Don't Be A Dick
To The Woman
Who Cleans
Your Home

xoJane
Makeunder:
Soukéné



Why I Refused
To Put On A
Shirt For Shape
Magazine

HOME SEX/LOVE JANE BEAUTY ISSUES CLOTHES IHTM ENTERTAINMENT MORE



xoJane

NOW ON
JANE'S
PHONE

AMAZEBALLS!
April 3, 2014 at 06:15PM



Issues

DISPATCHES FROM THE
PROZAC RABBIT HOLE:
Stuck In The Middle
With... Me

If You're In A Racial,
Sexual Or Cultural
Minority, "Purity" Often
Means Straight White
Male Perspective

WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE TO BE ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

I'm never fully relaxed with friends, I'm always waiting for them to tell me I'm annoying, that I need to change my personality.



Intern Maddy

3 Hours Ago | 19 comments

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9



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6

I always wanted to be different. Growing up I loved reading "Harry Potter," "Mathilda" and "A Little Princess." I wished that I was magical or that I was secretly a princess. I wished that I had something to set me apart from my friends. I didn't realize that I was already different enough.

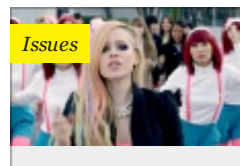
May We Suggest



Issues

My Body Is Wildly
Undisciplined And I
Deny Myself Nearly
Everything I Desire

210

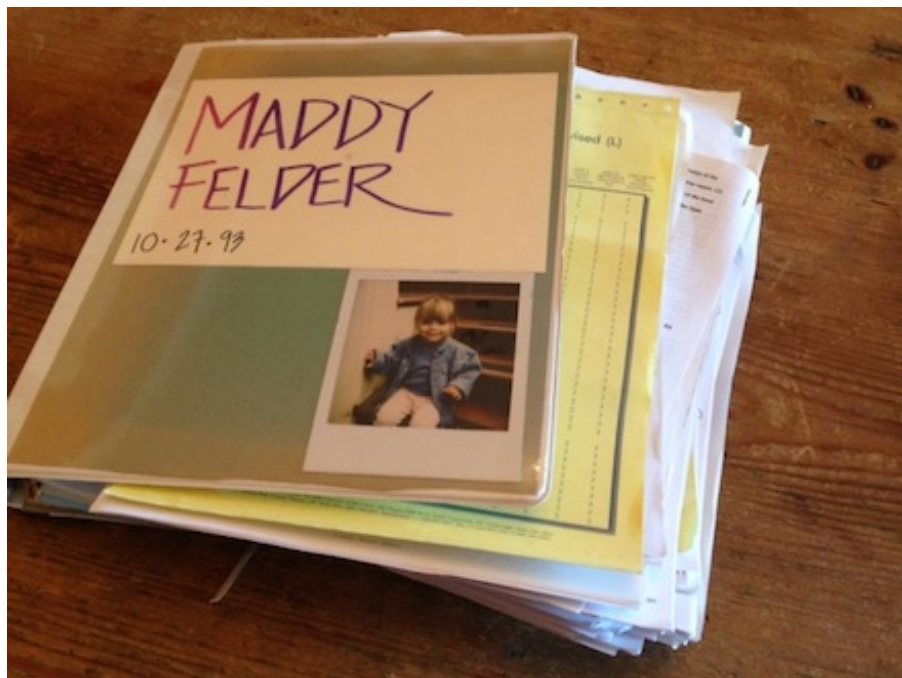


Issues

Thanks Avril
Louisiana, New Orleans



I didn't walk until I was two. My parents were first-time parents and my developmental failures sent them into a panic. They contacted various doctors and I was taken in for tests. I don't remember any of it, but there's a binder in my house that has all my records in it so I vaguely know what happened.

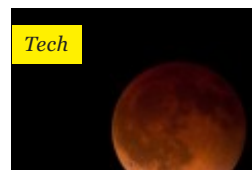


So. Much. Paperwork... And yes I was that blonde.

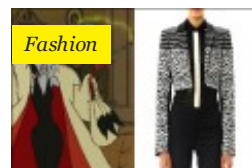
The doctors (including a psychotherapist who was the first to tell my parents I was on the “spectrum”), gave me an official diagnosis of Fine and Gross Motor Disorder. [Fine and Gross Motor Disorder](#) meant that my fine motor skills, like writing or doing buttons and my gross motor skills, like balance and moving core muscle groups were lacking. I was given an Individualized Education Plan by the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), which gave me access to physical and occupational therapy. You can read more about it [here](#).

I worked with these therapists on skills such as walking down stairs and buttoning my own jacket. I know, real Einstein stuff right here. When I lost my IEP because I went to private school, my mom found an occupational

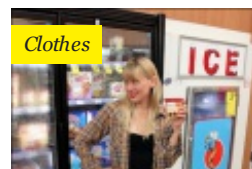
Lavigne, Now I Have To Explain Cultural Appropriation To My Asian-American Kids Again 429



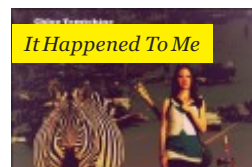
RECENTLY IN SCIENCE: Killer Sponges, Ancient Shrimp And A Super Tiny Fossil Galaxy 17



Stuff We Love: Fashion Cues From Disney Villains 25



The Underwear You Can Wear To The Grocery Store 106



IT HAPPENED TO



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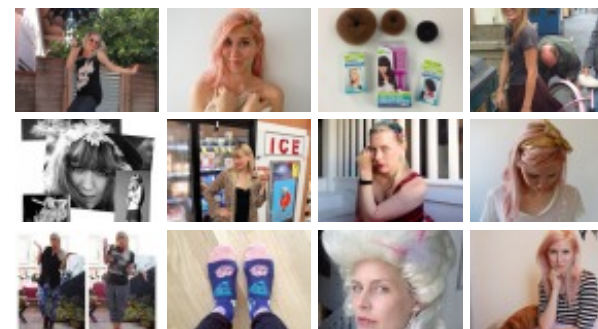


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Shoppables



therapist for me.

Life continued on like that until middle school.

I got a new diagnosis and a new therapist. My diagnosis was for Non-Verbal Learning Disorder, an autism spectrum disorder. Having non-verbal learning disorder is hard. It's with me every single day, every moment. I can never forget it. It affects my academic life and my social life. Unlike many of my friends with learning disabilities, when I leave the classroom. I don't get a break.

I have anxiety. I get anxious about flying, anxious about meeting new people, or being in a new social situation. My stomach clenches, my palms sweat, I stop eating. This is a problem especially because I go to college across the country.

I get lost easily. I have no sense of direction. North, south, east, and west are just words to me. Strangely, I'm really got at remembering places I've been. If only I could just get to them without being a gross, sweaty mess from anxiety. I give myself a good half-hour extra if I'm going somewhere new.

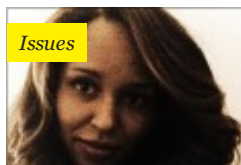
I'm clumsy. I mean obviously, the part about fine and gross motor skills and physical therapy didn't tip you off? But I'm clumsy enough to be the lead in a romantic comedy. I'm the kind of clumsy where I don't notice it anymore. Smack my elbow into a door, have a strange bruise on my shin? Just another day for Maddie.

As part of my learning disability, I was granted extra time on standardized tests in high school. My SAT took me six hours. I obviously needed the time, but prolonging a test wasn't fun. It also wasn't fun when friends and classmates routinely told me how lucky I was, how they wished they could

IT HAPPENED TO ME: I'm A Singer-Songwriter And I Perform With An Oxygen Tank 30



My Disability Makes Many Beauty Rituals Difficult Or Impossible -- But It's Not For Lack Of Trying 62



When I Wrote About White Folks Calling Me "Girl" Or "Boo," I Misspoke 415

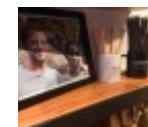


Australian High Court Legally Recognizes

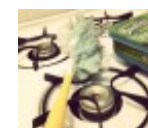
Most Talked About Now



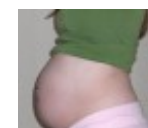
IT HAPPENED TO ME: I Live In A Dumpster *Jeffrey Wilson* | 826 comments



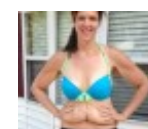
What Is Your Nails On A Chalkboard? *Jane* | 606 comments



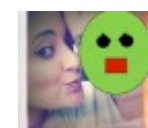
I'm The Woman Who Cleans Your House And This Is How Not To Be a Dick to Me *Anonymous* | 584 comments



I'm A Single Mom And I Freaking Hate Mother's Day *Eden Strong* | 519 comments



Why I Refused To Put On A Shirt For Shape Magazine *Brooke Birmingham* | 477 comments



IT HAPPENED TO ME: My Boyfriend Concern Trolls Me *Marmanides* | 449 comments



Thanks Avril Lavigne, Now I Have To Explain Cultural Appropriation To My Asian-American Kids Again *Hwang Lynch* | 428 comments

have extra time.

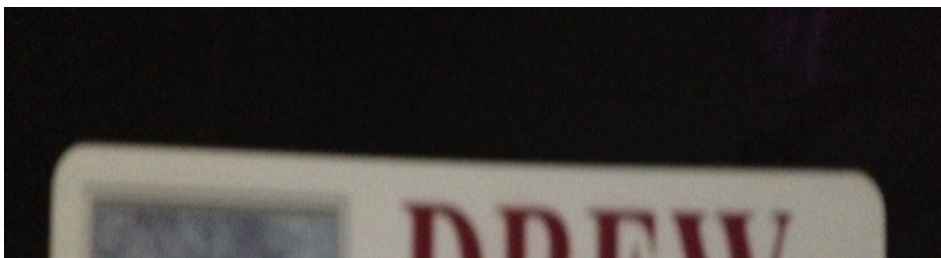
Don't tell me I'm lucky because of something I have no control over, something that actively makes my life harder. I work so hard and still inevitably fail.

I don't like not understanding sarcasm or jokes. I didn't like being bullied in middle school because my social skills were that of a kindergartener. I didn't like failing junior year math and having to beg my teacher to pull my grades up so I had a chance of getting into college.

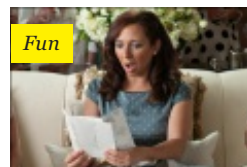
Luckily, my academic issues don't have much relevancy in my life anymore, but my social skills definitely do.

I learned early that the way I act socially is unacceptable. So I watch. I watch how people interact, how they talk, how they use their body language, how others respond to said body language. I change my personality based on how people I'm with act. I learned how to laugh at myself and the right way to respond to jokes. I learned how to read body language and understand sarcasm, but it took me a long time. I'm never fully relaxed with friends, I'm always waiting for them to tell me I'm annoying, that I need to change my personality.

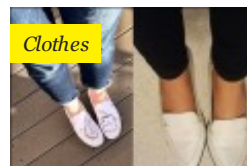
I'm in college, so academics still matter to me, but not in the way they used to. I figured out my limitations in high school. I needed a tutor for math and science, a computer to type out my notes and extra time on tests. I chose Sarah Lawrence partly because the school doesn't give tests, has no math or science requirement and I didn't have to submit my SAT scores. Bonus: It has a fantastic writing program and is close to New York City



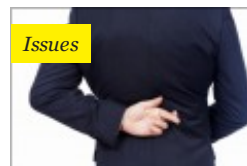
Recognize
Nonbinary Gender
Identities -- But The
News Isn't All Good
138



5 Things You Do
When You're The
Mom Of Your Friend
Group 34



What YOU Taught Us
About Style This
Week: Cool
Alternatives To The
Same Old Black
Boots We Always
Wear 110



Louisiana Bill May
Force Women To
Read Pamphlets
Warning Of
"Psychological
Impacts" Before
They Can Get



From Our Partners



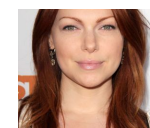
Can We Put This Chart In Every Public
Restroom? 'Cause That Would Be
Wonderful.
Upworthy



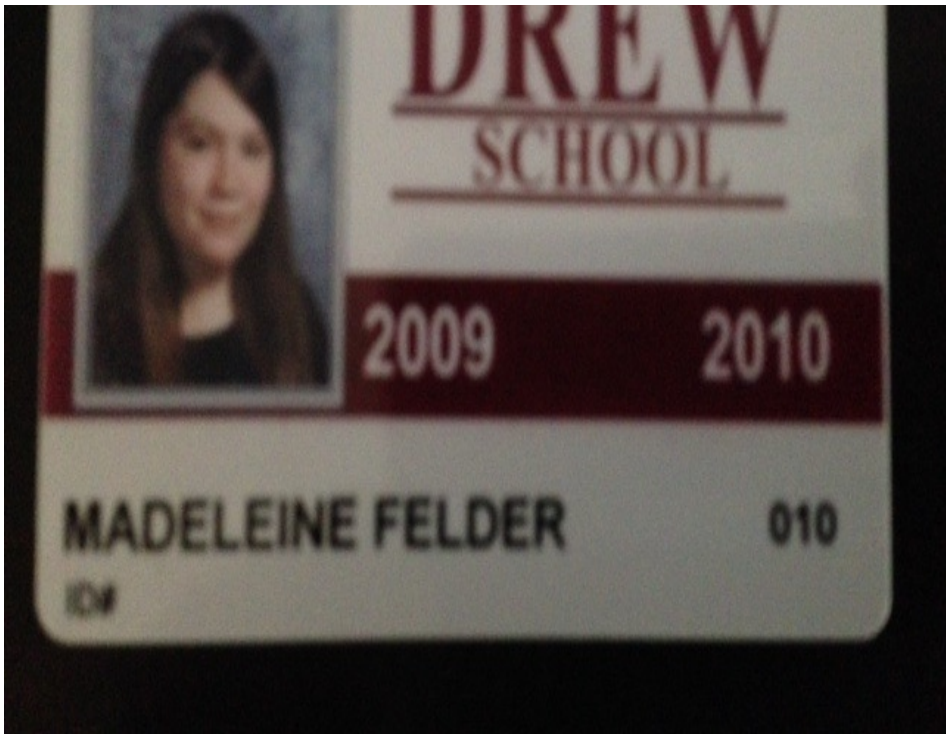
Mariah Carey Cops to Being a Nanny
Firing Machine and I Don't Blame Her
Lifetime Moms



American Apparel's Creative Director
Explains the 'Made in Bangladesh'
Campaign
Fashionista

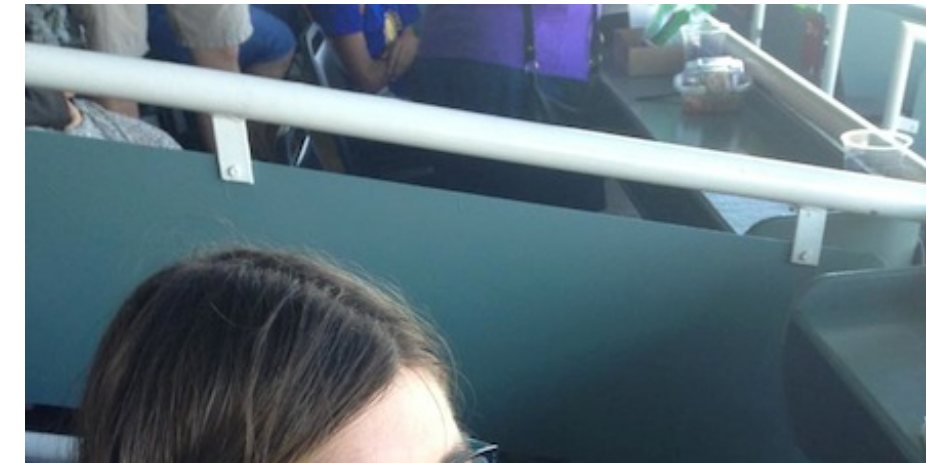


This Might Be Hollywood's Most
Unexpected Couple
Refinery29



Ugh picture day.

I’ve learned largely to accept myself. I’m always going to be different. My academic skills and my social skills will always be lacking. I can’t change that. I don’t know that I *would* change it. I’ve lived with it my entire life. My learning disability doesn’t define me, but I wouldn’t be me without it.



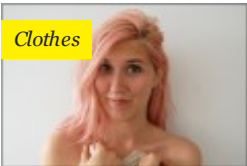
Abortions 36

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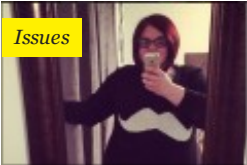
Why I Had More Fun  
At Bridal Fashion  
Week Than Regular  
Fashion Week 81

~~~~~



How To Wear Sheer
Clothing In Broad
Daylight 122

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UNPOPULAR  
OPINION: I Don't  
Support Weight Loss  
Surgery 301



The 'American Hustle' Beauty Blunder  
That's Been Bugging Me Since I Saw It  
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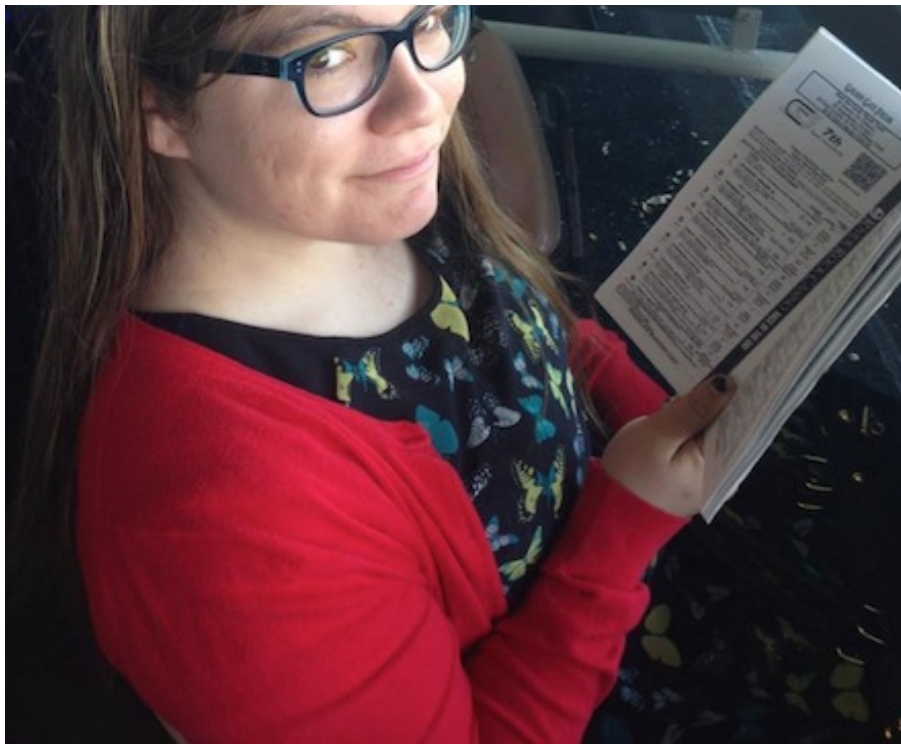
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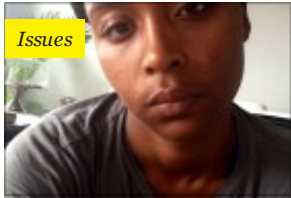
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*Posted in Issues, learning disabilities, autism, spectrum, nonverbal learning disorder*

An advertisement for Oak &amp; B. It features a woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a white cable-knit sweater and pink patterned pants. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The text "OAK &amp; B" is in a large, pink, stylized font. Below it, "SHOP NOW" is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Further down, "Free shipping on your first order!" is written in a black, cursive font. At the bottom, a pink banner contains the text "Original. American. Kind.™" in white.



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**Marianne** / If Your Friend Says You Are Too Fat, She Is Not Your Friend

## Comments Community

Sort by Oldest

Join the discussion...



**clulu7779** • 3 hours ago

Interesting! Thanks for sharing your story! I love hearing about just how we all differ and they all vary, sometimes greatly.

7 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Mike** • 3 hours ago

Our society often insists that everybody is perfect just the way they are, imperfect and unequal in abilities. However, that doesn't mean that not everybody has the native talent to be a doctor or a mathematician. I am illiterate and he built an auto empire.

I always admire people like this young woman who, rather than rely on their natural talents they have.

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**That Bitch** • 3 hours ago

I received the same disability diagnosis when I was starting university. I had special training on how to hold a pencil when I was in elementary school. I would bump into tables. You are "lucky" in that you got a name for your condition. I searched about NLvD and found a story about a man in his 40s who was diagnosed with NLvD and raising the profile of NLvD.

That said, I am a long time lurker here, and this website is probably the only place where your posts are rare. You should be looking for a new place to do your posts.

22 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Cameron** ➔ That Bitch • an hour ago

Not to be rude but I'm curious...why lurk if it's the wo

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Nicoleamaria** → Cameron • 36 minutes ago

Yeah that kind of thinking really bothers me, I hate reposts from the Frisky.) And it always is a kind of silly for spending a lot of time on some

Also saying that thoughtful pieces are so rare on daily/weekly basis. Like, just in the past hour workshops, and now this one.

tl:dr ... if you hate this website then why are yo

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Borky** ➔ That Bitch • 11 minutes ago

I really liked this article (and am actually with you on

I hope there are more pieces similar to this here in the

^ | v • Reply • Share >



**shesbenevolent** • 2 hours ago

Thank you so much for sharing this!





**Grace** • 2 hours ago

Man, I related to parts of this. My brother has NLD with asp child he had severe OCD and anger management problems), similar to yours, though less severe.

I have terrible gross motor skills, absolutely no sense of direct Aspergers diagnosis, I definitely have the tendency to fixate. when it was names... I can often cover it, and I think most pe friends, I graduated from an Ivy League school. But every ne everyone can see what a freak I am.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Mailbtch** • 2 hours ago

Thank you so much for sharing. My younger sister (who is a struggle to what you describe. You should be really proud of

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**CarpieDM** • 2 hours ago

Thank you for sharing!

^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Flannery** • 2 hours ago

With the exception of the fine motor skills challenges, you've

^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Stace Felder** • an hour ago

A very touching story. I'm proud of you for sharing it and ha

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Gabe Moses** • an hour ago

I have Asperger's and comorbid dyspraxia, and I relate to th me as a rock star or child writing prodigy) until I learned I w normal. Also, THANK YOU for an account that busts the my and people have actually said to me "You're autistic, aren't yo



**MissKittyFantastico** · an hour ago

Thank you for sharing. My boyfriend has never been formally reminded me of things he's said and felt. I'm gonna show thi

^ | v · Reply · Share >



**mayfly** · an hour ago

As an aside, I find it a little sad that Sarah Lawrence doesn't important skills!

I think that the fact that so many people, especially women, subjects, especially early on. I used to avoid math because I s stupid every time I asked a question!). It took a math-heavy my fear hold me back from learning (not saying this is the au

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**KittensRule** → mayfly · 43 minutes ago

I'm sure whoever goes there can buy that literacy.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Cleomama** → mayfly · 7 minutes ago

Woah there. I mean good for you for finding the beau to find out that taking an intro to statistics class was a I will never need to use calculus or trigonometry in "r back from learning"...I just would rather take classes

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Heina Dadabhoy** · an hour ago

I am so glad to see ASD women represented. My ASD wasn't dealing with rather than being dismissed as sensitive, fussy, c

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Joanna Boese** · an hour ago

I had been diagnosed with AS, however, I do NOT think of it frustrating because I feel that being shoved into special need

why isolate me? To make matters worse, I had teachers who bullying was my fault. I developed depression and social anxiety because those people were wrong. Not surprisingly, I couldn't handle it now, but trying to get it when you have a hard time figuring out what to do is difficult.

I feel the media doesn't help either in their depictions. We're explicit), it seems they have to make too big a deal of it. Guess that's why I look up to Paddy Considine. He's known for what he's accomplished. And I wish more people

^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Sophia Jones** • an hour ago

Thanks for the story - you are a great role model :)

^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Eris Nyx** • 30 minutes ago

Okay, wow, now I REALLY wish I would have applied to Sar

This was a very interesting story! Thank you for sharing. I wish there was a place that focuses on improving reading, spelling, math, and science, and people need to learn to meet each other halfway. I think that's what we need when really it just takes adapting a bit in interactions to make it work, focusing on them as individuals.

^ | v • Reply • Share >