Oreo

\*This is an adapted version of a Twitter thread I wrote a few months ago.

There’s more time than I can count that Someone’s told me “you dress so White” or “you’re the Whitest of all of us”. I’ve begun to question the background of these so-called “jokes” and realized it’s just plain racism. And it’s not just my White “friends” who say this.

I’ve challenged these claims before and the responses I got were along the lines of “oh like no offence but you just don’t act like you’re Black”. Meaning I don’t classify as a stereotypical Black person. Which in itself is a pretty wack concept.

On the outside it’s clear that I’m Black. I have a fairly dark complexion and 4C hair to go along with it. But my interests and aspirations don’t seem to reflect that image. Personally, I think I have a great sense of style but I don’t dress like I’m from the hood, nor do I talk like it. Which makes sense because I’m not. I’ve lived in the suburbs my whole life so naturally I’ve adopted those mannerisms. I like Starbucks just like the other kids at my school which apparently makes me White. What I don’t understand is, why. Why does having typical suburban mannerisms make me White? So only White people can have nice things?

But at the same time, I’m the target of racist jokes and have to hear ignorant comments on the daily. If I had a dollar for every comment on my hair, I’d be richer than Jeff Bezos. Yes, I wear extensions and yes I wear weaves. Get over it. I think the worst thing someone could do is touch my hair (without permission). The amount of times people either at school, dance or even just strangers is astronomical. I’m sorry but the “curiosity” card won’t cut it. It’s dehumanizing. I’m a student not a petting zoo. There is a long history of Black people being thought of as animal adjacents so I’m not here for this. The gag is, it’s the same people who call me White who make these remarks. If I’m so “White” then why are you making anti-Black jokes towards me. Make it make sense.

Through these so-called jokes we’re keeping this mindset alive. But no one really cares because it’s just a meme right? This idea is the core of our pop culture which won’t be changing anytime soon. I constantly find myself in the same predicament because if I laugh then they will keep making jokes and if I don’t then I’ll be thought of as annoying and no one will want to talk to me. It’s extremely difficult to decipher which one is worse.