

NAMES

Ashley.

It is always smart to start with a name.

I don't like Ash despite the majority of people deciding this is in fact my nickname.

Only my childhood best friend, Emily, and my Uncle Shawn are allowed to call me this without me wanting to choke them out.

My name is Ashley. Please complete the two syllables. There are only a handful of other names I enjoy, but like Ash they are specific to important people.

My grandma calls me Sweetie and My Sweet.

"How's My Sweet doing?" Is always the first question when I enter her house as she peppers my cheek with kisses.

When I have done something to annoy her I become My Granddaughter Who...insert my alleged crime.

I usually return to My Sweet within the hour because we are besties like that.

My grandpa is the only person in the entire world that I allow to say my full name.

"Did you see [insert any sport event because he watches them all], Ashley Jade?" He says in his recliner with said sport on the TV screen.

Ashley Jade is reserved for Grandpa because he has not one mean bone in his body. I'm not getting full-named because I'm in trouble. When Grandpa says it, my name is just my name.

Dad has always called me Boog and all of its variations—Boogie, Boogiehead, and his favorite when he is trying to annoy me *Boogy-Woogy-Choo-Choo-Train*. This last one is usually said in a high pitch or his version of Cartman from South Park.

As a kid when I found out the bear from the movie Open Season was named Boog I thought I was the coolest kid around. Yeah, that major studio totally named the protagonist anthropomorphic bear after me.

In truth, I have always hated my name due to it being the female version of John Smith.

My dad hates his name—Shannon—because people assume he's a girl. He attempted to go by Chris in high school, but it never stuck with anyone except for the man who owned the town's grocery store who still calls him Chris to this day despite the phase lasting a week.

My grandma hates her name—Phyllis—because she says it's ugly.

Each generation of my family has an issue with their names.

But hey, at least our last name isn't Morecock or Boner.

Which are the actual last names of people I went to school with...

Sorry guys.