

## **Simply Red**

Why everyone really wants to be red-headed.

I have been blessed with a rare gift. It is so rare that only 4% of the world's population can boast this trait. What is this fabulous feature I own? To put it simply, a head covered in ruby-red locks.

I am the first to admit that collectively, red-heads receive more insults than any other hair type, whether it be blonde, brunette, curly or straight. However, after years of comments such as; 'Carrot Top', 'Ginger Nut' and 'Ha! Your hair is on fire!', such insults have no effect. Perhaps this is because women with red hair have the highest IQs. It could also be due to the fact that everyone who makes such, as I like to put it, 'hairist' jibes are jealous of my scarlet crowning glory.

I don't blame those who make these snide remarks about my hair. If I had brown, black or blonde hair, I am almost positive that I would become so depressed with my mundane look that I would express my envy of red-heads in a similar way. I accept that their real reason behind hating my fellow gingers and me is because they are only too aware of the benefits of being red-headed.

Everyone wants to be auburn. Sixty per cent of women who dye their hair do so at home. Of those, 32% chose to dye it red. Beauty wise, red heads have always reigned supreme. Both Suzy Parker, the World's first supermodel, and Jackie Loughery, the first woman to be crowned Miss USA are naturally ginger. Even the current top model of the moment, Lily Cole, is not shy about displaying her full head of ruby locks. On average, it is said that a man driving a car will toot a brunette, slow down for a blonde but will stop and reverse fifty yards for a red-head.

Another advantage of being ginger that is likely to appeal to both men and women is that we lose our hair colour later in life, thus keeping us looking younger for longer. When their hair eventually starts to fade, there is no need to worry about turning grey because many turn a sandy colour, similar to that of a blonde.

As a female, I can proudly say that women have a lot to thank red-heads for. Forget the suffragettes — one ginger in particular was the first true feminist and campaigner for sexual equality. No, Emily Pankhurst was not a closet Titian-haired beauty, but I am referring to Lilith, the first wife of Adam. A feminist icon, she proclaimed to her husband, 'I am your equal since both of us were created from dust.' Biblically, other red-heads include Mary Magdalene, Judas and in some traditional accounts, Jesus of Nazareth.

Without red-heads, the world would be a very different place. Renowned for our fiery ambition, just imagine if George Washington, Boudica, Winston Churchill or Oliver Cromwell were brunettes. Think how different the Arts World would be if my fellow gingers such as Van Gogh, Matisse, Mozart, Shakespeare or Vivaldi were blondes. Galileo Galilei, who perhaps made the most important scientific discoveries, was

flame-haired, as was the saintly Florence Nightingale. Their achievements alone outperform any other hair colour.

Everyone should want to surround themselves with red-heads. However, not necessarily any of the aforementioned! Merely looking at the colour red enhances the viewer's metabolism whilst also increasing heart rate and respiration. Therefore, theoretically, if you are in the company of gingers on a regular basis, you're likely to burn more calories and lose weight than if you socialise with blondes or brunettes!

This could also be why Romans traded red-haired slaves at a higher price. In Denmark, it is deemed an honour to have a child with ruby-red hair. I personally believe this should be the case in all countries, as I'm sure my fellow auburn-haired citizens would agree.

Perhaps the best thing about my hair colour is that I stand out from the crowd. No matter where I go in the world, I shall always proudly display my Celtic roots. Everyone remembers me because of my hair and I am proud of that. It is part of my identity, and without it, I would be a very different person. There is also a distinct camaraderie that I am positive no other hair group can share or lay claim to. Therefore I believe that everyone wants to be, to put it simply, red.