**What is the hardest part of being a teenager now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?**

Teenagehood (AKA Primetime)

Contrary to the frequently opined belief, being a teenager is kind of the best.

Aunts, uncles, grandparents, and neighbors have no expectations that you’re good enough to get into the colleges where the acceptance rate and your GPA are the same.

Your parents don’t expect you to be the next Yo-Yo Ma, Usain Bolt, Albert Einstein, AND Edgar Allan Poe, while coming up with the solution to world peace at the same time and casually being nominated as Prom King or Queen. They never project their own wants, wishes, and desires onto you, and they are perfectly content to be a passive observer as you become your own person.

At school, there is no pressure from teachers to write like Shakespeare, solve like Fibonacci, or change the world like Newton.

Young, teenage girls never have to worry about spending an ungodly amount of money on feminine hygiene products because the fabricated accounts of monthly misery are just that-fabrications. And our bodies are perfectly in sync with the tides and all the workings of the sun, moon, and stars. Acne is really just a myth, puberty a folktale, largely synonymous to the Lochness Monster as no hard evidence exists to back it up.

Sleep is plentiful and rejuvenating. We drink coffee for the taste, never the caffeine content.

Stereotypes? They. Do. Not. Exist. Adults never think that teenagers are self-centered, lazy, or millennials because they take the time to get to know us before passing judgment, and they never forget that we have our own thoughts, values, and dreams. They are kind enough to never treat us as children while still expecting us to behave like adults.

Being a teenager is equivalent to having tickets to front row seats at a Beyonce concert as Oprah sits behind you and bellows out in that sweet, melodious voice “You get a free puppy! And you get a free puppy! Everyone gets free puppies!”

Being a teenager is kind of the best. Until, of course, it ends\*.

\*note that it doesn’t have to end if you can find the Fountain of Youth in which case hit me up