

He Thought I was an African Princess

Gennieve Manning

Once I went to an African wedding, and I wore traditional African attire. The dress was gold and black. It's called a "bubu" in Africa. My head wrap was made from the same material. My shoes were also gold with black stripes and six inch heels. By the time the night was over, my feet were hurting so badly. But I guess that's the price I paid for beauty.

At the wedding, I was approached by a few people who wanted to know what part of Africa I was from. This one particular person stuck out the most. I think he was just trying to flirt with me. From the moment he saw me walk through the door, I could feel his eyes following me. By the time I sat with my drink, there he came, strolling.

As he got closer, he said, "I must compliment you on your dress. You look really beautiful."

I replied, "Thank you."

He asked, "What part of Africa are you from?"



I exclaimed, "I'm not from Africa! I'm from Jamaica!"

He said, "You have got to be kidding me. I would never have guessed that! You look like a true African Queen."

We talked for a while longer. That's when he told me he was from Nigeria and that my friend who was getting married was his cousin. His name was Ken O. We ended up dating for three months. But he was controlling, and I couldn't deal with that. I'm used to having my own way. We decided to be friends, and we remain friends to this day.

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Take it Further

Share with others a time when someone misunderstood your identity based on your clothing.

Compare this article to the one on the previous page.

Think about the phrase "appearances can be deceiving." Do you agree or disagree?

Write a dialogue that has two people talking about clothing. (Before you start, study the dialogue above and write down some rules about how to use punctuation and capitalization when writing dialogue.)

Grammar Rules for Writing Dialogue

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
