

# I Know More

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The mentor respectfully listens as he speaks.  
People praise him for his engineering acumen.  
They welcome him with beaming smiles and open arms.  
“We’re happy to have you!”

After his first day on the team,  
A mentor proudly shared with me,  
“the new boy is so smart, he knows so much!”  
And I respond with, “I know more”.  
Because it was me, after all, who taught him.

Why did it take so long for me to be known?  
While the new boy is immediately loved?  
If you ask the rest of the robotics team,  
They say it’s because he talks more and I’m too quiet.  
And so because of my lack of courage, it is my fault I am not heard.  
But the truth is hidden under their stubbornness to admit they’re wrong.

Is it really my shyness holding me back?  
When I have to force myself into discussions because the designer has called everyone else  
besides me for feedback on a part he’s making?

Is it really my unapproachability holding me back?  
When the same boy that casually asks about my day, won’t talk to me about STEM unless he  
and I are the only designers that came to the meeting?

Is it really just a coincidence?  
that when he makes a mistake, he is told “good effort”  
But when I do, I’m questioned, “Why didn’t you get it right the first time?”

Is it really just a coincidence?  
On his first day, he was instantly recognized as someone with great potential.  
But on mine, my credibility was dismissed and I was asked to get caught up in installing the  
design program. The same exact program I’ve just explained to the mentor that I’ve been using  
for years

The only difference standing in between the new boy and I is that people don’t listen to me.

And so when working in the STEM field,  
I’ve grown a personality,  
Loud, definitive, and blunt

So they can not ignore me any longer.  
But now, to them, I am only  
An emotional, nonsensical, girl.