

When you're the shortest friend

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Being short has its ups and downs, but mostly downs, for obvious reasons. Your height sometimes becomes your defining factor, more so in front of your friends. If you're short, you instantly become the easiest target, and there's no escape.

Short jokes become a daily ordeal. At one point, you give up trying to formulate comebacks and just accept your fate. Heck, you even join in, since self-deprecation is always in fashion. The worst part is that if your friends ever feel like roasting someone out of the blue, you are the first casualty. Your height will always be in their mind, and they will never hesitate about cracking a joke about it.

The jokes aren't only limited to the group chat, of course. Every short person meme on the internet, you have already been tagged in. They might even make fun of your height in front your crush, knowing very well they're ruining the already minimal chance you have with her. When that happens, you can always start a meme page so that girls look beyond your height and fall for more important things.

Sometimes, you might feel like you've drawn the short straw. Especially when a tall friend is taking the group selfie and everyone huddles in front, not caring about how only a centimetre of your miniature self made it into the photo. You can try to cut to the front, but then your less than average height will be even more apparent. Taking selfies with tall friends becomes an extreme sport, since getting

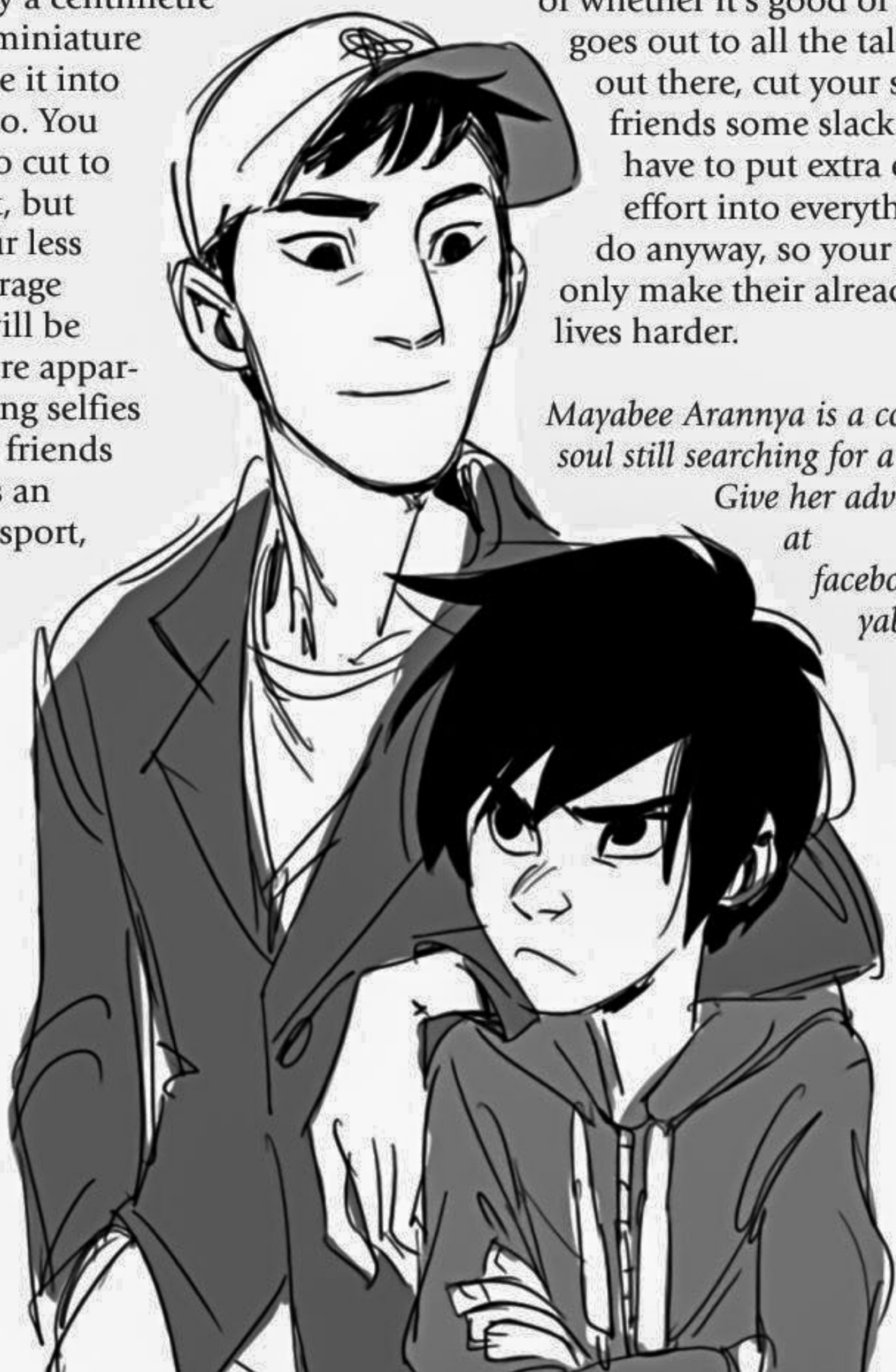
just the right angle so that both of you are part of the picture is next to impossible.

Height is sometimes correlated with age because who cares about biology? If you're small, you're a baby. If you're a baby, your opinions matter less. You can be picked on easily. You can be the perfect arm rest for your friends. Your strength will always be underestimated. Good news is, nobody will ever pick a fight with you; defeating your opponent with one weak punch can't be considered a fight. However, make sure to have some big, mean-looking friends with you at all times, just in case.

If you do look younger than your age because of your height, then you will look completely out of place next to your friends. You'd feel like an eighth-grader hanging with university students. People will mistake you as the younger brother or sister of one of your friends. Say goodbye to any plans you had of confessing your secret feelings to your friend because you are most likely going to be little brother-zoned by them too.

Even though you might think all these problems are huge, they're not. It's just your height making things seem bigger than they are. At the end of the day, being the shortest in your group of friends makes you stand out. You're the one getting the most attention, regardless of whether it's good or bad. This goes out to all the tall people out there, cut your short friends some slack. They have to put extra energy and effort into everything they do anyway, so your jokes will only make their already difficult lives harder.

Mayabee Arannya is a confused soul still searching for a purpose. Give her advice on life at [facebook.com/mayabee.arannya](https://www.facebook.com/mayabee.arannya)



Celebrating 80 Years of Superman

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It's no secret that superheroes are pretty in now, enjoying a period of popularity in the mainstream thanks to a golden age of superhero media, from films to TV to even video games. While the DCEU is a hot sprawling mess, Superman still remains an iconic and beloved character in the hearts of people around the world, and it's pretty safe to say we'd be missing an entire industry if it wasn't for him.

April 18 saw the 80th anniversary of Action Comics #1, which features the very first appearance of Superman as a character. It's hard to forget how iconic that cover is, of him holding up a car to save a pedestrian. 80 years on, Action Comics hit issue #1000, a milestone that no one would've predicted, certainly not Joe Shuster and Jerry Spiegel, Superman's co-creators.

Certainly, many people casually dismiss Superman saying he's a bland character and the epitome of boring and overpowered, which couldn't be further from the truth. He's been an endearing character in most cases of how he's portrayed, during the 80 years of being in print and inspiring the word 'superhero' and everything associated with it. Action Comics #1000, like all landmark issues, takes the best of everyone who's worked on Superman and some other DC Comics greats and effectively showcases why Superman is so great in a collection of short stories in the comic.

From people who've worked on Superman classics like Dan Jurgens (famous for killing off Superman and creating Doomsday in 'The Death of Superman'), to modern DC greats like Tom King (the current Batman writer) and one of the most prolific names in all of comics, Brian Michael Bendis, who made his DC debut after switching from Marvel, whose work on Marvel's

Ultimate Universe line of comics is the inspiration for the MCU. All of the stories have the same thing in common, they emphasise the best qualities of Superman.

Superman's best stories all focus on how human he is, despite being an alien and something close to a physical god. He's just trying to be a normal man with a good heart, and it really shows in the hands of the creators who know him the best. Tom King and Clay Mann's story stands out as the best highlight from this book, a simple reflective piece on Superman appreciating his family at the end of the world in a potential distant future. The art is extremely surreal thanks to some great pencils from Clay Mann, as well as some bright vivid colours from colourist Jordie Bellaire, whose work on the issue makes it a visual treat that puts some movies to shame.

In 80 years, Superman's been portrayed wildly differently, from comics to his extremist-with-good-intentions take in Injustice: Gods Among Us, to alien saviour in Man of Steel and the other DCEU movies. But it's hard to take away from his big blue Scout Boy persona that defines his core values. Action Comics #1000 is a great landmark issue that you should read, going for surprisingly cheap for a large sized issue since DC wanted to share this historic moment with as many people as possible. Look for it at Jamil's Comics and Collectibles, it's worth a read if you're interested in why people love Superman. After all, you don't get to see a character celebrate 80 years of being wildly successful and popular every day.

Nuhan B. Abid is someone who actually thinks puns and sarcasm are top class forms of humour. Tell him that 'sar-chasm' is TOTALLY the best thing ever at nuhanbabid@hotmail.com