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Java Talk
(for December 6, 2007 to December 12, 2007)

Every Age Is The Best Age

The Story About Your Name

“Tell us the story about your name,” said the host, many years ago, at an annual pot luck dinner for storytellers. One interesting thing about the oral art of storytelling is that after hearing some stories, people want to tell their stories, too. However, on this occasion, an older storyteller, whose name I don’t remember, and I don’t know what became of her after that evening, and maybe I misunderstood her meaning, but the impact of what she said still remains. She said, in perhaps slightly different words, that small people should not have big names.

When I was little, because I wasn’t very old, I liked how my friends called me Deedee, even though my mother objected. I wasn’t named Deidre to be called Deedee, although she wasn’t the one who had actually named me. By the time I was born, my brother was already nine years old and my parents had been happily married for almost fifteen years. Although my dad said one day my mother would be happy to have a daughter, she gave him the task to name me. He suggested naming me Audrey, after her, but she was adamantly opposed to this, too. So, with help from some friends, he finally named me Deidre. I always thought my name referred to the mythological heroine and “most beautiful girl in all of Ireland” who came to be known as “Deidre of the Sorrows,” but according to Babynames.com, my name means “She who chatters.”

Now that I am all grown up, I prefer to be called by my full name, and especially not the clipped version, Dee, that I went by during adolescence and early adulthood. Nowadays, I find the more letters to my name, the better. Anyway, it’s not as if our names are permanently etched somewhere, right?

By the way, the next Victoria Storytellers’ Guild “Stories at Fern” gathering, where stories are told and listened to, will be on Monday, December 10, 2007, from 7:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at 1831 Fern Street. (Adults \$5, Students \$3).

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