

SHORT PEOPLE & TALL ONES

THE HEIGHT REPORT

BY AIMEE LEE BALL

For every woman who'd like to make more—or less—of what she has, here is the whole terrible truth about height—the long and the short of it

I was having lunch at my friend Wendy's when the phone rang.

"I can't talk long," she said to the caller. "My friend Aimee is here. Do you remember her? She has dark, curly hair and brown eyes and she's short."

"I am not!" I protested, standing up to my full five feet five.

"Well," said Wendy, "from up here you are." Wendy is five ten.

Then there is my friend Roger and our mutual friend whose name is the same as mine. She is four inches shorter than I, but whenever we all are together, Roger calls me "little Aimee."

And then there is my secretary, who, when I started to write this article, asked me how tall I am. When I told her, she stared in disbelief for a few minutes and then walked away, muttering, "I always thought you were short." She is five feet two.

Which all goes to prove that the way we perceive our height and the way other people see us may be two entirely different things. Which does not make me really happy. I mean, here are all these friends and associates who think I'm a little person, when I know perfectly well I'm a tall person. I didn't *used* to be a tall person. I used to be a short person, and I always had the top locker in junior high school, and I couldn't reach my books, and Bob Bauer had to reach them for me. It was wonderful. Then I started growing and I could reach my own books, and it wasn't nearly so much fun.

I suppose most of us grow up feeling either tall or short, a feeling learned from friends and relations, a feeling that may have very little to do with actual physical stature. Did you ever notice how a person of average height who nevertheless projects a regal image can be universally described as "elegant and (Continued on page 87)

