

The Beauty Aisle Is Segregated —and I'm OK With That

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In the makeup aisle, the separation is a little less obvious—there's no sign stating "makeup for dark skin"—but there is a deep divide between the brands that cater to women of color and the ones that cover everyone else. In high school, I'd go straight to brands like Iman Cosmetics, Milani, Black Opal, and Black Radiance to find foundation for my milk chocolate complexion. These were the brands I could trust wouldn't come out ashy or too light. They always had the darker end of the spectrum covered with nuanced shades of brown and highly-pigmented color cosmetics that don't disappear on darker skin. (Even today, there are some makeup ranges that don't cover my skin tone—and I consider myself in the middle of the dark-skin spectrum.)