

RED HEADED STEPCHILD

by Dax Tran-Caffee, 2015

A 5-10 minute game for 3 to 12 cis-het white males.*

TL;DR: **Keep the Red Headed Stepchild excluded from your clique by complimenting her on things that are true about her, but are hopefully untrue about you and your friends.**

WARNING: This game is designed to get personal, quickly. It also involves removing clothing. You are never required to remove clothing — it is only ever an optional move. If you become uncomfortable with the way other people remove their clothing, or for any other reason, you may choose EXILE at any point.

* non cis-het-white-males are welcome to play; they may choose to play as if they were unmarked, or can elect to begin play as INVINCIBLE without having to shed any clothing.

SIMPLIFIED RULES

A Player tells the Red Headed Stepchild something that they “Like” about her.

The Red Headed Stepchild repeats the Like phrase back, directed at any Player she chooses; if the response rings true of that Player, the Red Headed Stepchild may demand an article of clothing from that Player, which she then puts on. If the Player “BALKS” (aka refuses to give up clothing), they swap roles with the Red Headed Stepchild.

If the Red Headed Stepchild cannot successfully apply the Like phrase to another Player, the Red Headed Stepchild “BALKS,” and must either drop a piece of clothing to the floor or choose EXILE (and another Red Headed Stepchild is chosen).

EXAMPLE OF PLAY

Player 1, to Stepchild: “I like your sneakers.”

Stepchild, to Player 2: “I like *your* sneakers.”

Player 2: “damnit Player 1, didn’t you check to see that *I am also* wearing sneakers.”

Stepchild to Player 2: “Give me your shirt.”

Player 2: “fuck that, I elect to be ousted.”

[Stepchild and Player 2 swap roles]

Player 1, to new Stepchild: “I like the checks on your shirt.”

Stepchild: “Damnit, none of you are even wearing shirts anymore!”

Player 1, to Stepchild: “then strip... or EXILE.”

Stepchild: “This game suxx, I quit.”

Player 2: “Great, who’s the next Red Headed Stepchild?”

PANSY MODE

This game is *really* designed to be played with literal articles of clothing; it doesn't mean much without risk of exposure. If you are pansies, you can playtest the mechanic with counters (aka start by holding up 3 fingers, lose a finger whenever you lose an Article of Clothing) and disregard INVINCIBILITY rules.

CHOOSING

The person with the reddest hair begins as the Red Headed Stepchild; everyone else is a Player. Whenever a new Red Headed Stepchild needs to be chosen, whoever has the least clothes left becomes the Red Headed Stepchild.

RHYMING

The Red Headed Stepchild can further elect to replace one word of the Like phrase with a rhyme. EXAMPLE: "I like your brown eyes" can be repeated back as "I like your brown thighs."

PACING

Players do not take turns, but shout out their Likes when they think of them, as soon as the Red Headed Stepchild has finished responding. An introvert Player may opt to stay silent, although this is not a smart strategy.

WINNING

The Winner is the last Player to continue to play. If everyone else has since started playing some other game and doesn't want to talk to her anymore, she may elect to continue to SINGLE PLAYER START mode.

EXILE

Leave the game. Players should treat you as if you are dead, as that is how you would prefer it.

INVINCIBILITY

If a Player or Red Headed Stepchild has no clothes left, she Gives No Fucks and is INVINCIBLE. For as long as she has no clothes, she can BALK without consequence; game otherwise continues as normal.

DISPUTES

Rhymed words go by Scrabble Rules (aka if it's not in the dictionary, it don't fly).

Any disputes (over the truth of Like statements, the truth of Stepchild responses, etc.) are resolved by a quick & dirty raise-of-hands.

Dirty use of the unfair dispute-vote mechanic is allowed and encouraged, especially if no one has opted for EXILE recently.

SINGLE PLAYER START

The game may be played with a single player. That Player finds a mirror, appoints their reflection as the Red Headed Stepchild, and plays both roles. Game ends if and when you accept your body.

ALTERNATE ENDING

Make-outs.