But Your Daughter So Pretty

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for Margaret Cho

Anniyo! Gaze: her flat nose, crooked teeth, coarse
hair, much acne. No praise for unremarkable face.
Too skinny, so chubby, so tall, too short: most average.
Eat more; no more food! Eyes tiny, will need surgery.
Very bad surgeon, looks worse than before. Don't peep
the mirror. Good girls not vain. Why are you
always on phone? Study! Don't play sports, only
boys should do that. Study! Study! Why can't you
wear more skirts? Are you a boy? Be more like
her or her or her or her over there. Do more
for extra credit, but come home right after
school. Go to the library. Why are you always at
the library? Did you hear Mrs. Kim's daughter got
into Harvard and Yale? Mrs. Lee's got a perfect
score on her SATs. Mrs. Lim's girls have scholarships
to Princeton, Columbia, and Cornell. If not Ivy League
or Stanford then none of this will matter. No one
is going to want to marry you. Date after college. Only
bad girls have boyfriends, so don't be bad. Why not
married yet? Is something wrong with you? Don't be
gay. Are you gay? Only marry Korean, but if not, white
is okay. Korean is always better. Why couldn't you be
a doctor or lawyer or work in a nice office? Mrs.
Park's daughter married a very rich Korean man. Mrs.
Choi's daughter had a baby then another. Two sons!
Why not married yet? It's getting late, what is wrong
with you? Don't want you to suffer. We want
you to be happy. Happier if you gave us
grandsons. Getting too old. Why can't you marry?
Anyone will do. You're already so old—who will
marry you now? Doesn't anyone love you?

Go to church. Jesus loves you. We'll pray for you.
Why won't you listen? We just want the best for you.
OK, do what you want. You never listen anyway.