

## First Impressions

The who sat down next to me on the bus sn	nells like a	If I'd seen her from
the glass, I would've imagined,,	maybe a	nd concealer.
Now I'm looking for the ugly orange on h	er bookbag. She's clean. Or	n the outside, me too. I
smell like; I wear the perfume every m	orning. I bet she doesn't loo	ok at me and know my
first bed had to keep ou ou ou ou ou ou ou	t. I bet she can't tell mom	verb in her
, drunk. A few months ago, I met a classm	•	?" she asked.
I'm not, but I get it. I grew up on the, too.	"We're American," my	told me
every time I asked about "Gesundheit,"	he told me every time I sr	
people in the, they didn't unders, they didn't unders, you is?" I didn't know how to answer. When	body part	"What kind of
10.0		
not-straight are you?" I looked dumb, too.	_ men tell me I'm thick for	or a white girl. When
friend noticed my dad's hour	for the first time, she laugh	ed, "Somebody in your
family did something they shouldn't have!" The family joke	s that he's the	hame
even in his fifties with two metal knees, a metal disc in his b	ack and a metal hip, he	verb
for extra cash. I first admitted I was queer to a	woman. She told me I twis	sted Jesus' words when
	me again. The first girl w	ho reminded me I was
	old me she wouldn't	after resting
in my bed because she smelled like me. I would've given her th	e rest of the laundry deterge	* Jan 2
hear from her again. My weren't my scent	anyway: they smelled like	my ex-boyfriend who

climbed trees in at have of ale	and told me he imagined I would be more sultr	y in his thick southern drawl.
Both the man I loved and the v		: half- vationality
half-nationality. A	girl I met is in the	school grade lavel She's
and	She opens the cork to a	of She tells
me, "I like the smell of	. It's my scent." This doesn't surpri	se me at all. I expected that.

(75.6 (SEE) E)