

6 Things You Didn't Know About 'Empire' Star Grace Gealey

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Everyone loves to hate *Empire's* own, Anika aka "Boo Boo Kitty" (Grace Gealey). And we learned a lot more about the star behind her character in a recent interview with [Details Magazine](#). In fact, by the time you finish reading this article, you'll discover six things you didn't know about her.

The 30-year-old actress opened up about her role on Fox's hit series *Empire*, her likes and dislikes in men and some other interesting facts you couldn't even tell from her *Empire* character – some of these may shock you!

Grace Gealey is...

NOT FROM THE U.S.

Someone's native background isn't usually the first question that pops in mind, especially if they don't have an accent. Grace is originally from Cayman Islands and moved to the U.S. at 18 years old.

A TOMBOY

Hard to tell, right? Anika's character is so bougie and classy that we could never picture her in anything but nice heels with her chin up high, but the woman behind-the-scenes is the complete opposite. When Grace isn't filming, she doesn't wear makeup and usually rocks a baseball cap. "I'm very much a tomboy ... I'm really easy to please and not high-maintenance at all. I like that chill, not stressed-out kind of lifestyle," she told *Details*.

UNAWARE SHE'S LIGHT-SKINNED

When she first moved to America, she revealed to *Details* that she never felt like she was light-skinned because, where she's from, people can look different and still be of the same culture.

"I've never felt like I was a light skinned black woman."

She continued, "Never felt that way because we shared the same culture back home. But when I came to America, that's when I started to feel that there was a lot of push-back from women."

NOT A FAN OF PAJAMAS

When asked what she wears to bed, she simply replied "nothing." In other words, she sleeps naked! Isn't that the best way?

A PRO AT SIGN LANGUAGE

One of Grace's hidden talents is that she does sign language. Since both of her parents are deaf, it taught her to have more patience and compassion for people, and to better understand a person's story before judging. "There have been situations where I've been shocked by the way that people have treated my mom because they're unaware that she's deaf ... We live in an instant gratification kind of world and so we don't have patience for anybody anymore."

NOT A FAN OF THE WORDS "CUTIE" AND "BAE"

Grace's character on *Empire* has many nicknames, such as "Boo Boo Kitty," "fake-ass Halle Berry" and "Lena Horne." When it comes to real life, she's all for cute nicknames for guys to call her – as long as it's not "cutie" or "bae." "I remember one guy used to call me "cutie" and I hated it. I was like: "I feel like your daughter."" When asked if the word "bae" is dead, she said it is [dead] in her life and is unfortunately still a word people use regularly. However, "baby" will do. "There was another guy who simply called me "baby" and I loved that," she stated.

To learn more about Grace, twitter insults she's received, her thoughts on guys and porn addictions *and* her taste in men, head over to [Details](#) to check out the entire interview.