

are perennially hungry? We were no different, so my sister-in-law wandered off into the kitchen and to my horror when she reappeared; she announced that she had set up a cheese fondue in the other room! At the time fondues were all the rage and people were forever having, cheese, meat or even chocolate fondues. A cheese fondue is where you have a pot of melted cheese and everyone gets to dip either pieces of bread or vegetables in the cheese and eat it. Not exactly my kind of thing. For a while I hoped that no one would observe that I was not exactly participating in the cheese fest but as luck would have it my sister-in-law noticed and when I finally admitted that I actually did not eat any cheese I had eight pairs of eyes looking at me with incredulity! Not only that, my sister-in-law was mortified as this was not exactly how she had hoped her little get together would have turned out. In the end I found myself munching on a plate of chocolate biscuits and one thing that I was confident about is that I had definitely made an impression on my "nanad" but probably not the type I had hoped for!

What I want to know is how is it that people find it strange that I do not eat cheese but find it totally acceptable that some of the cheeses that are thought to be so delectable have an odour like smelly socks and given a chance would get up and walk off by themselves with the amount of bacteria in them! I am sure I am going to have all the cheese eating community coming down on me pretty hard but you have to admit that some of the cheeses do smell unbelievably awful. Soon after I got married, my husband, who is very partial to cheese, brought a soup home, which consisted of broccoli and stilton. When we sat down to dinner, I was almost knocked out by the overpowering smell of the soup. Ultimately I sat upstairs in our bedroom while my husband sat in the kitchen which happened to be two floors down, and finished our respective meals! Needless to say that subsequently my husband stopped bringing back any of the cheeses that you could smell a mile away.

It is funny how parenthood changes people and their behaviour. No I still do not eat cheese but I do go out to the shops and buy different types of cheese for my children because they all love it. It is also not unusual to find me making a pasta bake (with cheese) cheese sandwiches or cheese on toast for them which would have been unthinkable for me a few years ago. I even order a pizza for myself when we go out, albeit a cheese-less pizza. Yes, yes I can almost hear some of you groaning at the thought of pizza without cheese but trust me it is really not so bad!

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