SPOTLIGHT

Love me (not)

Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

HEN we think of abusive relationships, we tend to immediately imagine domestic violence, constant screaming, and a tear-stained existence. We are not undermining the seriousness of physically abusive relationships. That being said, these days it seems "abuse" is an entirely different ball game. At the most superficial level, relationships these days are all about the abuse of money and power, from both sexes.

Love can get complicated, and is not always perfect, nor do we expect it to be. But when you love, love honestly or not at all.

So whether you are looking for love or you think you've found it, watch out for the following specimens who really don't respect the concept of love.

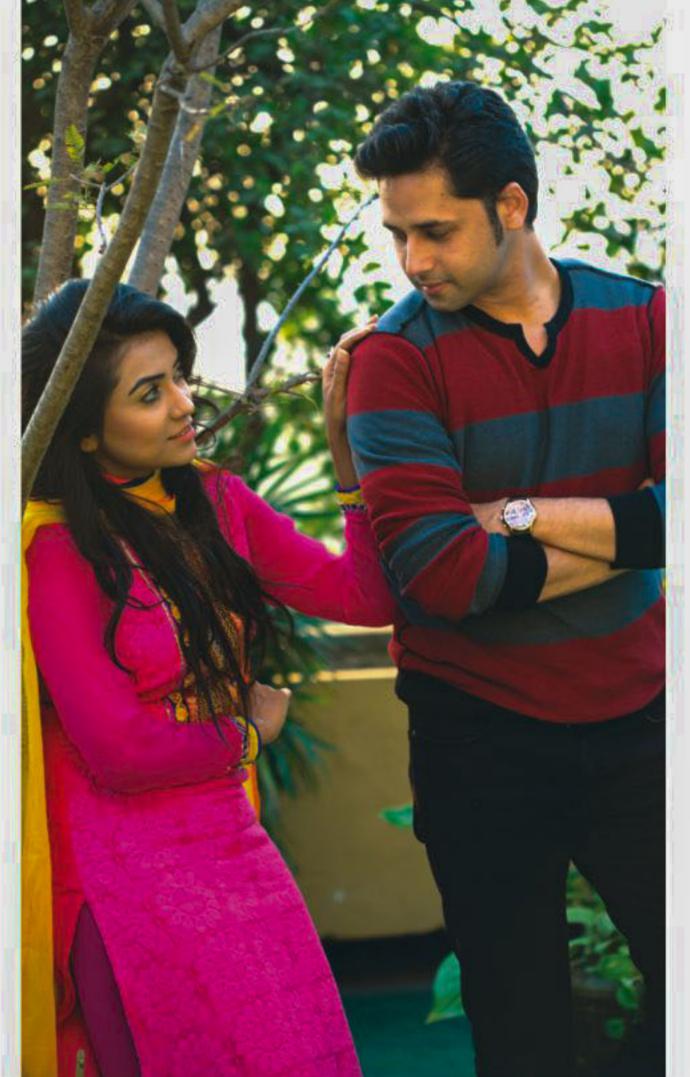
The gold digger

Both male and female, the gold diggers scope out the goods in social gatherings - the branded goods and occupations of the mums and dads, that is. If they like what they see, they enquire on the existence and relationship statuses of their offspring. If all the requirements are satisfied, the gold digger begins his or her hunt on the unsuspecting offspring.

Gold diggers take lots of effort with their appearance, following the basic concepts of a Venus Flytrap, a bright and gorgeous flower that eats up bugs which come close to it. Gold diggers don't worry too much about whether they will like their prey. When there's a lot of money, the love comes naturally.

The trophy wife hunter

He's looking for a wife who has all the right educational credentials, to be stacked away in his trophy shelf. She won't be allowed to do anything much with her life save keeping herself nice and



shiny. The reality is, she probably intimidates him a little and he doesn't want her out running the world. The trophy wife hunter is happiest when his trophy gains weight, has a few kids and becomes a hermit.

The conditional lover

For the conditional lover, love is everything when it's at their service. Conditional lovers usually consist of teenagers, and those who never really graduated from high school drama. They're finicky and demanding at one moment, and lovey-dovey goodness at the next. Conditional lovers usually create the most fuss on social media regarding their love, and are often seen friending and unfriending their significant other depending on the timing of their fights. They love Valentine's Day, anniversaries and birthdays, and any other day when they get a lot of attention.

The ornamentary parents

These are the worst kind of people out there, who abuse the notion of love in its purest form, the love and adoration parents receive from their children. They are mostly young couples who are bored with each other after their big, fat wedding and think having a baby will be "fun", without considering whether they are mature enough to handle one. The poor kids are undernourished, carried around by teenage maids in social events, and are miserable during their loud birthday parties at Radisson - but have excellent coordinated outfits with their hot mums.

- LS Desk

Photo: Shahrear Kabir Heemel Model: Ishika, Sayeed

REVIEW

Makeup without the makeup

HE trend of wedding makeups in
Bangladesh has for the longest time
been aimed towards one objective –
to make the bride seem white. Based on
this, a whole range of commercial parlours
have been established catering to cake the
faces of women, sometimes rendering
them absolutely unrecognisable.

The fact that makeup can be applied without it visibly sticking out and bringing out the natural features of a woman is a foreign concept for most Bangladeshis. And so the makeup industry here has always been behind the rest of the world, where the concept of 'makeup without makeup' is followed to bring out the beauty in a face without having to hide it behind layers and layers of white.

L'Artiste aims to do just that – introduce a trend where makeup is subtle. As owner Nazifa points out, "In our country, the tradition has been to apply heavy layers of makeup on the bride's face. But in reality, natural beauty can be highlighted in a way such that the fact that makeup has been applied is not even understandable."

Having studied the art of makeup from London's prestigious Delamar Academy, she founded L'Artiste in February 2014. The



Spa, Beauty & Personal Care institution is run on an appointment basis, with Nazifa doing all the makeup herself. "I take just one or two appointments a day – this leaves me with enough time to complete each



properly."

L'Artiste offers makeup services not only for weddings but also for formal events, parties and for models. Nazifa feels the traditional approach to makeup still dominate the market in Bangladesh, but she hopes that the world trend of highlighting one's look and accentuating the natural features will catch on in the country. Till now, her customers have been a small but regular segment of the population.

The other services offered by L'Artiste are open all day without appointments, but even when it comes to hairstyling, Nazifa is there to direct how it is done. Though L'Artiste specialises in the art of makeup, they also offer hair styles of all sorts – from the traditional to chic modern trends.

"I am very careful with the products that I use, only the high end beauty products are used in the studio," Nazifa says, pointing out that commercial parlours in Dhaka usually use all sorts of products in their mass commercial enterprises.

"I want to change the trend of makeup in our country to be at par with the way in which this art has been evolving in the rest of the world," says Nazifa. The studio of L'Artiste is located at Banani Block F, Road 5, House 95. To book appointments, please call Nazifa at 01762447711.

- LS Desk Photo courtesy: L'Artiste