



Borrowing Etiquette

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Borrowing is a tricky thing. It has been known to end friendships, cause bloodshed, and has even seen man-tears being shed. If ever you find yourself treading the murky waters of the dreaded land of the debtors, be sure to keep the following points in mind.

Books: Books are easily among the most treasured possessions of any rational being. When someone is loaning you a book, he is trusting you with nothing less than a part of his soul. As such, you must look after the book and handle it with respect. Abandoning the book in a dusty corner of your room, letting your younger siblings pour paint over it, allowing your girlfriend to fling it across the room in a fit of rage – these are not signs of respect and care. Keep the book in your bag, out of harm's way, and be sure not to bend the spine when reading it. Most importantly, USE A BOOKMARK, please. Leave those page-corners alone.

Clothes: While most women feel that they wouldn't be caught dead wearing someone else's clothes, men are much less rigid on this point. Whether it be after a sweaty round of football, or a crow-poop incident, men frequently find themselves borrowing t-shirts and such from

their bros. When returning the shirt, if it has creases all over it and smells like you, it's a poor show of gratitude. Wash the shirt, and if ironing seems like a bit much, then at least fold it neatly so it doesn't crease all over. Try to avoid getting stains on the shirt while you are wearing it, and be careful of ripping stitches with your manliness.

Jewellery and Make-up: Though unwilling to borrow clothes, women are quite eager when it comes to jewellery and make-up. Make-up requires a different sort of care – you don't want to ruin the product, or use up all of it. If it's a powder or such, apply it using your own brushes. If it's a nail polish or fluid of some sort, make sure it doesn't dry up under your care. Jewellery, needless to say, needs to be treated carefully. Make sure no stones or embellishments are missing when you return it. Losing jewellery can have terrible consequences. Ever read "The Necklace" by Guy de Maupassant?

Gadgets: The dreaded road-trips with families call for iPods and iPads with great urgency, but as our luck would have it, our own gadgets are usually either broken, missing or non-existent. When borrowing such a device from a friend, it is important to not underestimate the value of the object. Don't get excited by the numerous functions and get it to do a zillion tasks at once. Do not tinker with the settings, or modify/delete any of the data stored in it – however comfortable you may be with the device, it is not yours. When returning it, make sure that it is sufficiently charged and cleaned – wipe away any trace of sticky fingers and ink-marks if you want to live.

Money: Well. There's only one rule regarding borrowing money – return it. ASAP.

So go through your book shelves, closets and drawers – return the things that never belonged to you. You little thief.

People you shouldn't be mad at

RAFEE SHAAMS

Sometimes our tempers will hit the roof for reasons trivial but there are people you can't be mad at. Because losing our temper is just not good for health. Yes, let's go with that. Here's a list of folks you shouldn't be mad at:

People You Don't Know

Today I saw a man doing this in a bus: he was trying to explain to the person in his neighboring seat that he had gotten the meaning of his name all wrong. The man replied that that he knew what his name meant, but the guy kept on jabbering. It was comical, yes, but really annoying for the guy. At one point, he started completely ignoring the man (which obviously didn't stop him). You don't want to be that guy.

The Driver

Or anyone behind the wheel. Don't

haggle about the fare with them after you get on the CNG/ rickshaw. Don't tell them they are cheats and are ripping you off, don't tell them you take this route every day and know the fare even if you don't. Don't blow off steam about him while you're on

his vehicle. They might be behind the wheel, but they can hear you. Settle on the fare before embarking.

The Bus Conductor

Just give the man the fare he wants. Also, don't tell him you're a "student" if you

look like a 45-year-old insurance salesman.

He'll not believe you so you can't get away with giving half the fare. The job's tough, and they spend all day

asking for fares from the customers in a cramped bus. Don't let yourself go psycho on them just because they told you to wait for the change.

The Barber

They are very dangerous people. Do not complain about the condition of the salon when you are there. Remember: you are very vulnerable when seated with a white cloth wrapped round you. A white cloth can mean anything. Don't berate him for refusing to cut your armpit hair. They have rights.

The Doctor

It's not the doctor's fault that you think you have every disease you can think of. If they'd be operating on you, it is better you be extra nice to them. You don't want to have "moron" seared on your heart with argon gas. Don't try to do his job either by demanding certain medication. You don't have a degree in medicine, they do.

Fanboys

It's simply not worth your time lashing out at someone saying that the 11th Doctor was the best Doctor Who in some scarring fan forum. You have other important stuff in your life. Do that.

The Internet People

You know why.



Don't mess with your barber