

GIRL, YOU'RE A BRO

MASHIAT LAMISA

We all know about the dreaded brozone. It's the place where even the bravest of men are afraid to go. Fact: 7 out of 10 women have brozoned at least 7 guys in their whole lifetime. Even as we speak, a guy somewhere is descending into the brozone and listening to Westlife songs to heal himself.

But no, these guys are not the only ones under the label. We are here too. And we are a rare breed – often introduced at parties as “wingmen”, a word that obviously messes with our gender. We are majestic feminine creatures who get along with you too well for our femininity to get revealed. We are the “bros”, the ultimate companions men can get.

Once in a while, we meet a nice guy, play pool on Facebook, chat on Viber and send each other playlists until the day we realise that's as far as this is ever going to go. Nice guy then talks to us about the girl he has a crush on (which is clearly not us) and asks for advice on how to approach her. With Momtaz's brozone anthem *Faitta Jae* playing in our heads, we give him the best advice in the universe (which gradually helps him to win the other girl) in reply to which he says, “You are a bro” (the greatest compliment he knows).

Slowly, Viber chats turn into awkward and ugly Snapchats. Nice guy doesn't mind our hideous, #wokeuplikethis faces. Neither does he mind sending us pictures of his flared nostrils or his disturbing expressions. A sacred, trustworthy relationship develops between nice guy and our kind, as we both choose not to screenshot the pictures which might otherwise seem frightening to people. Once a week, nice guy uploads a picture on his Instagram account tagging us with #BestBro in reaction to which we sing



bukta faitta jay

Momtaz's song some more.

One fine morning, nice guy invites us to his house. We dress in casuals and run to find out we are the only person belonging to the female gender in a house full of his guy friends. But nice guy introduces us as “The Bro” to his friends before we all start playing *Guitar Hero*. It surely takes a while for us bros to get used to the routine but gradually, we replace all the feels we previously had for nice guy with ones that might help us share fart jokes with

him. With each passing day, we grow more comfortable with nice guy and start watching chick flicks together, without being judgmental.

With a heavy heart, we embrace our brohood. Our respectful relationship with nice guy flourishes and we stop singing Momtaz's song. Nice guy approaches the other girl he likes as we “wing” for him from a distance. We are successful women. We can now wear oversized sweatpants without anyone judging us.

Brohood is one of the most beautiful things that exist in this universe. Without us women who are also bros, the world would be a dark, dark place. Although it will hurt a little in the centre of your heart at first, let us make a pledge to be the best bros humanly possible.

Mashiat Lamisa is often seen frowning at the sight of people who dislike poetry and tomatoes. She can be reached at mashiatlamisa@outlook.com

MAKING THE PERFECT PLAYLIST

ARMAN R. KHAN

Since everyone has a smart-phone these days, it's easier to get a good playlist in order, having multiple playlists for different moods. Moreover, a great playlist as a mixtape makes for a neat gift for your loved ones. So, how do you make a good one? Let's see.

1. Have a versatile song collection and listen to them. You need this knowledge to know which songs would be best for what occasions.

2. Define a purpose or the audience of this playlist. Is the playlist for when you're feeling down, or when you're having one of those rare “I'm invincible!” moments? Is it for a party at your place next weekend? Is it a gift for someone? If so, who, and why? Are you trying to cheer them up or encourage them, or trying to break up with them via a playlist? Know the purpose of this playlist before you start making it so you know what type of music you are looking to put in it.

3. If it's a mixtape intended as a gift, know that person's musical preferences. There's no point in giving a Rabindra Sangeet fan a collection of obscure Norwegian death metal tracks, or vice versa.

4. Sit with some time to finally make the playlist. Most of the songs here will come from your own collection. Once you've defined the purpose of the tape, it becomes much easier. Go through your music collection and add all songs that you think will go well for that particular mood. Don't procrastinate or think much, just add, but ensure the songs are fit for that par-

ticular playlist. For example, one shouldn't add Sir Mix A Lot's *Baby Got Back* in a mixtape for someone they just started dating.

5. Edit after a day's rest. Go through the playlist with all the songs you added, and start deleting those songs that are not absolutely necessary, or those that you're pretty sure you'll skip while listening to the tape. Choose wisely those that you want to keep. Add more that you had initially not selected, if need be.

6. You can cheat a little. Open 8tracks or YouTube and search the tags for the type of mood of your playlist. For

instance, search the tags for “rain” and listen to people's set playlists. That way, you get to discover more music and might as well find something that's worthy of being on in your perfect rainy day playlist.

7. Set the order of your playlist in a way that makes sense for the optimal musical experience (especially if it's a mixtape meant as a gift) set the order of songs in a way that tells a story. On the other hand, if you aren't a fan of order, select the ‘random’ option while playing your own playlist.

8. Regularly modify the playlist by adding or removing songs from it, or by shuffling the order of the playlist. This doesn't apply for a mixtape for gift.

9. Lastly, pick an apt name for your playlist. Get creative.

A perfect playlist for every moment is fuel for us to keep going. Follow the MIXTAPE section of Shout if you're looking for recommendations. Plug in your earphones, select your new playlist, and chill out.

