

Why I can't be a beauty guru

RAFIDAH RAHMAN

Before anyone assumes that I'm a gawky makeup-hating tomboy, I'd like to clear the air because I absolutely love putting makeup on myself. Maybe not much as most girls, but I'm there.

YouTube is a lucrative oasis for self-proclaimed beauty gurus who don't just love makeup - but also eat it, drink it, and live by it for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Now, that's a different level of commitment and here's why I can't fulfil it:

MONTHLY FAVOURITES

So, you have to pick a favourite of each makeup item every month. Now this might sound like fun to most girls, but for a frugal like me, it's a nightmare. My makeup items are like planets; they've been around ever since the Big Bang and I still very much use them. I refuse to throw away anything until I finish off the very last pinch, exactly why I sobbed at the parlour when I broke my face powder which I could easily have used for another year.

MAKEUP LOOKS

I fail to understand how beauty gurus



come up with different makeup looks every single week, put 5000 products on their faces and still be free of a single pimple. I can do about 5 looks at max, which I interchange between events to not come off as repetitive. But honestly, if I wore that much makeup every single day, I'd be Voldemort's sister by now.

ROUTINES

YouTubers have a routine for everything. Morning routine, Night-time routine,

Summer routine, Fall routine, and the list goes on. They have different products for all of these routines which I'm certain costs more than my college education. Leaving aside the monetary aspect however, I sincerely applaud their persistence. For a sloth like me, the fact that I remember putting on the moisturiser is a big feat in itself.

OTHER PEOPLE DO MY MAKEUP

This has been a raging trend these days

where beauty gurus invite their friends and family who unconditionally love them to do their makeup. The most popular being "my boyfriend/dad does my makeup WOW". Now, neither do I have a boyfriend nor is my dad cool enough to pull off such a feat. Sadness is welcome.

VIDEO-MAKING TRAUMAS

Being sluggish and frugal aren't the only things that define me. I'm also technologically challenged who has to call her guy friends over every time something goes wrong. For me, videotaping at various locations, searching for good lighting, putting on voiceover and finally making the video look pretty would be a daunting task to accomplish. And then all that publicity over social media. No, sir.

It's best that I just stick to writing - where I'm allowed to rant in my pyjamas and cry about my pimples.

Rafidah Rahman is a teeny-tiny Hulk, she's always angry and she's always hungry. A cynical dreamer and a food enthusiast, she's your everyday entertainment. Correspond with her at rafidahrahman93@gmail.com or <https://web.facebook.com/rafidah.rahman.39>

STUFF PET OWNERS HAVE TO DEAL WITH

SALMA MOHAMMAD ALI

You probably share meals with your cat, never let your dog leave your sight, and feel loved when your rabbit scratches you. Yes, you certainly like your pet more than you like most humans. But every once in a while someone will come along, claim moral higher ground, and talk smack about your pet. Not cool. Allow me to suggest how you should deal with such people.

Some will be outright rude. My sister adopted her cat Pebbles as a kitten. A certain acquaintance once said to her, "Appi, your cat has grown so big. Throw it out and get a cute, small kitten!" Of course the logical reply was, "You're an adult now, why don't your parents kick you out?" That shut the person up alright. On the same day, someone else "suggested" that she give one cat away simply because she has two. My sister calmly replied she'll do so when the person gives one of their kids away. Savage, I know, but you can't say they didn't have it coming.

And no, it's not just my sister. An acquaintance was taking his cat to the vet in a bus and he had it on his lap because that was the only way the cat felt safe. A fellow passenger demanded that he carry his cat IN A BAG. The guy took a leaf out of my sister's book and replied that the man should put his kid in a bag.

If you've ever had a pet, or actually if you've ever considered getting a pet, I can bet at least

five people have told you that animals are unclean and/or spread deadly diseases. You're more likely to get head lice from that kid in your class than rabies from your vaccinated, well-groomed dog, Mr. Snuffles. Here's a secret - people who claim they're anti-pets because of hygiene/health reasons are usually just super scared of animals and don't want to admit it.

The worst kind of pet-basher is the self-righteous person who will judge you for adopting animals from the street. Their logic? Why should you waste time and money caring for animals when people are dying of

HATERS GONNA HATE



hunger? I'm not even going to explain why that is utterly ridiculous but I'll just say I don't see this abandoned puppy begging on the street or landing a job any time soon. On second thought, such people are probably in the same category as those who judge you for having a local cat and not a Persian one, while they cage their German Shepherds in tiny apartments all day long.

Remember, as long as your pet isn't hurting anyone and you're treating it right, no one has the right to tell you off. Just don't blame me when cats take over the world one day though.

Salma Mohammad Ali fears she is becoming a crazy cat lady and uses writing as a means to grasp on to sanity. Send her your views/hate/love at <fb.com/salma.ali209>