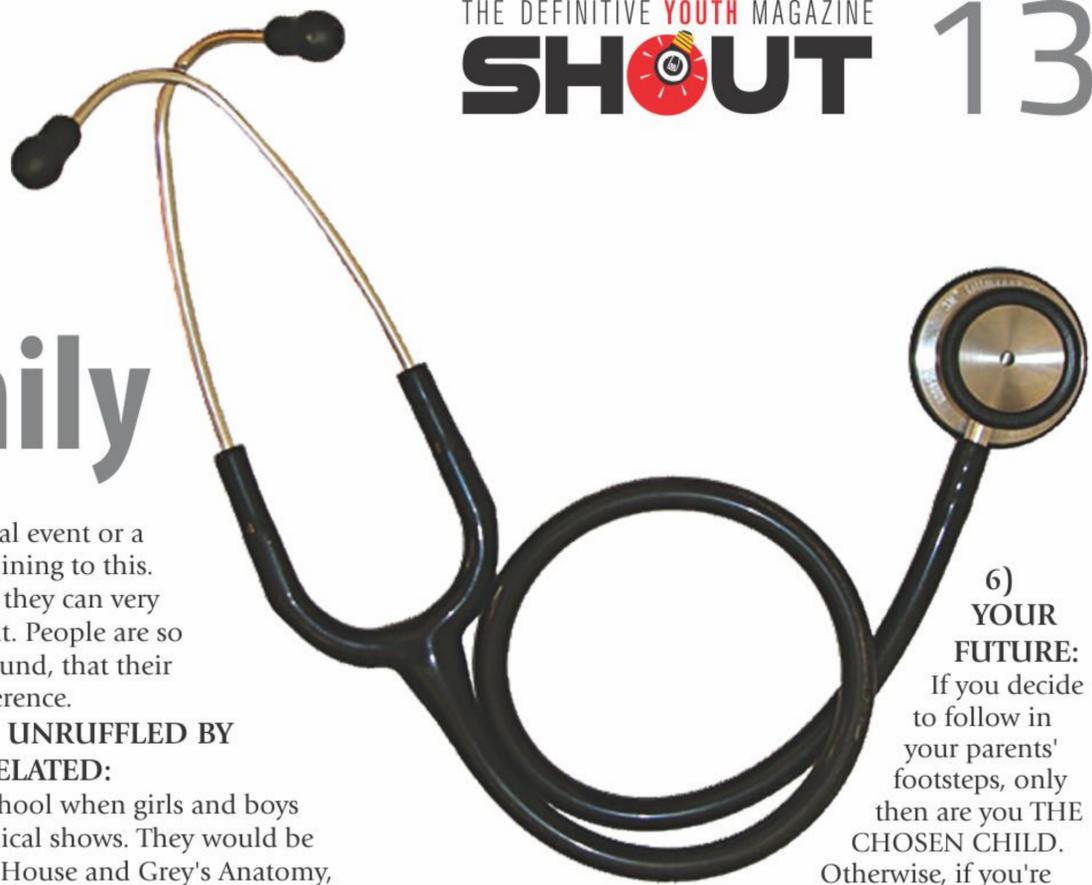


What it's like to be from a medical family



RAFIDAH RAHMAN

It's not always easy living in a family of medical professionals, but it's no less entertaining either. Below, I talk about some key observations I've made about them throughout the years:

1) NO ROOM FOR MEDIOCRITY:

Yes, no parent wants their kid to be subpar to other kids in terms of academics, but doctor parents take it to a whole other level. They always have high expectations and will prioritise financial stability when you want to pick a subject to study. One bad result and you're dead meat. Once, my dad threw away my report card because my math marks dropped from 95 to 89. You get the picture.

2) YOUR HOUSE IS A MINI LIBRARY:

Every month when my mother decides to dust the shelves in our house, she gets a mini panic attack due to witnessing the ever increasing stock of books. Now, most avid readers would not get why this is a problem, but when 75% of the books weigh more than a child, it's not pretty.

3) NO HOLIDAYS:

Doctors get emergency calls all the time, be it when they're sleeping or having dinner with their family. Due to their insane schedule, they can hardly make time for

anything whether it's a special event or a holiday. But, there's a silver lining to this. Even if they aren't that busy, they can very easily skip an annoying event. People are so used to not having them around, that their absence hardly makes a difference.

4) YOU ARE OUTRIGHT UNRUFFLED BY ANYTHING MEDICAL RELATED:

I remember being in high school when girls and boys alike would gush about medical shows. They would be enamored by shows like Dr. House and Grey's Anatomy, and read medical romances all day. That really baffled me since I heard more medical stories than I'd like to remember and in no way are they as rosy as they are portrayed in pop-culture.

5) YOUR HOUSE IS A TINY LAB AND PHARMACY:

When you have doctors in the house, medicines are just a part of your family. If you tell your parents that you're feeling under the weather, they will simply scan you from top to bottom and hand you a random pill from their self-built pharmacy. Free Biology lessons were also on the quota. Once, my father dissected a cockroach to demonstrate its white blood to me. Too cool to have been disgusted, sorry.

6) YOUR FUTURE:

If you decide to follow in your parents' footsteps, only then are you THE CHOSEN CHILD. Otherwise, if you're not a doctor, what are you?

Even though I'm not a doctor and not exactly the greatest fan of this profession, when I hear people bad-mouthing doctors or nurses, I automatically come to their defence. It is in fact the toughest and most noble profession in the world, so disrespecting all their efforts is preposterous. Also, apparently doctors are supposed to be mega rich. SUPER! Dad, I'd like a Bentley please.

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://www.facebook.com/rafidah.rahman.39

Types of cousins we all have

SAMIN SABAH ISLAM

They're the best friends whom your parents actually allow you to sleep over with, the squad who makes Eid celebrations even in the remotest village lit, or even the overachieving snakes who deepen your suspicions about being adopted. Cousins are essential for survival (specially during family *dawaats*).

THE "WHY CAN'T YOU BE LIKE HER?" COUSIN

I'd ask you to aspire to become these cousins, but years of experience have taught me better than to get your hopes shattered. No matter, how good you are, you'll never be them. Exhibit A:

*Mom: Why can't you speak politely the way Maisha does? Did you hear about her 7 A*s in O levels. Why can't that be you? Her life is more put together than you desk is. Why can't you wear the orna decently like she does?*

Me: Now you're not even making sense, I'm a guy.

Mom: Now you're talking back to me. You know who wouldn't do that? MAISHA. You have the same blood flowing through your veins. How did you turn up like this?

This conversation raises a very important question: "Is she the adopted one in the family or are you?"

THE BIDESHI COUSIN

Almost every family has a cousin living abroad. When once in four years they'll decide to grace the family

with their presence, you and the rest of your *deshi* born-and-bred cousins become slaves to their majesties. Say goodbye to the good *murgi* piece, your comfy bed and any acknowledgment of existence from the family. They'll

It's really almost crazy how much attention they get. Or perhaps you're just crazy jealous.

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

These cousins are wonders of nature, defying all laws of the Bengali dynam-

speaking in *shuddho Bangla*. But she's not fooling you. You're added to her "other" Facebook account, and her Snapchat. You know she wasn't out for group studying and that guy definitely isn't her "lab partner". But do you tell on her? Of course not. This is the cousin you aspire to become. Of course even if you did tell on her no one would believe you. She's got straight A's to back her up.

THE COUSIN-WHO-YOU-DON'T-REALLY-THINK-IS-YOUR-COUSIN-BUT-YOU-DON'T-KNOW-WHAT-ELSE-TO-CALL-THEM-SO-YOU-CALL-THEM-COUSIN COUSIN

This is the random bloke your parents introduced you as your cousin at a wedding. Maybe he really is your cousin, maybe your parents are just saving themselves the headache of figuring out how you're really related so they just tossed them in the "cousin" pile. The point is, whenever all the background blur gets too confusing, just call them cousin and call it a day.

At the end of the day though, isn't everyone your cousin? Because *shob Bengali bhai-bhai*.



saunter in with their thick Banglish accents, passing comments like "Mami, amake mosquito bite korche." and their allergies with "the iron-filled Dhaka water".

ics. They aim to woo the *chachas* and the *khalas* AND live the good Bangladeshi teenage life. This cousin is all about wearing the right clothes and helping with dishes in *dawaats* and

Samin Sabah Islam believes, there are very few problems in life, if any, that a good nap can't fix. If she isn't asleep, your queries may be answered at sabahsamin11@gmail.com