

My mother's jewellery

As far as I can recall my mother's image from the past, I remember her wearing an emerald pendant. The locket, shiny, bright and hanging from a rose gold chain, was an integral part of her profile, as is even today. It is very hard to imagine her without the green adornment; it's as if — she was born with it. Nevertheless, being the only daughter of my parents, she promised ownership of that cherished emerald piece to me, if ever she chooses to part with it — perhaps assured in the belief that I will safeguard and own the pendant exclusively, till I decide to hand it over to a loved one — just like an heirloom piece.

But that was just my story. There are so many other beautiful recollections, like an elder sister's platinum, charm bracelets or even a favourite aunt's pearl clip-ons. The basic outline is that heirlooms, especially jewellery, tie us to the memories of our predecessors. It ties us to their love — bridging the past, present, and future.

But can everything and anything be considered an heirloom piece? Maybe not! And here's why.

For a piece of jewellery to be regarded as an heirloom, it has to have three important elements — splendour, emotional attachment, even monetary value!

Typically, heirloom jewellery should include precious stones like pearls, emeralds, sapphires or diamond,



because of which, they increase in monetary value over time. Durability is also a factor. Metals like gold and silver are quite popular as well. Additionally, it may also be said that these high-end pieces are classic and endure centuries of shifting fashion trends.

Many heirloom pieces are prized for their distinctiveness. Like my mother's emerald pendant, it was hand-designed by a Persian goldsmith in the early sixties — something that I cannot buy at a typical jewellery store anymore.

But at the end of the day, it is always the story attached to the pieces that trump all other aspects. These unique stories narrate love, attachment, family bonding and rare accomplishments. And an heirloom piece can hold just as many stories as there are emotions.

Let's get back to my mother's emerald pendant one last time. After decades of wearing it, if mum chooses to give it to me, I will naturally add on my own stories to its history. Her stories of love, dreams, or even grief shall get entangled with mine. These deep emotional connections will continue with my children and they will, in turn, also contribute to the heirloom's worth...

Isn't that just lovely?

By Mehrin Mubdi Chowdhury

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Model: Sonia Yeasmin Isha

Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha

Jewellery: Alvi Jewellers

Wardrobe: Tangail Saree Kutir

Makeup: Farzana Shakil's Makeover Salon

Location: Eskay Decor

Ankle of our dreams

Women and jewellery are a no-brainer combination, and yet, every girl has distinct preferences. Of all the conceivable pieces, from necklaces to 'sitahaars' to bangles to rings, often ignored or forgotten are the many options we have to adorn the feet. Yet, adding a tiny bit of glam to our feet can change the entire feel of an outfit, and also the way we feel.

Foot jewellery is fancy as well as feminine, and add a touch of delicacy. They make sure our pedicure does not go to waste by drawing the eye just the right way.

The first thing to pop in our heads with the mention of jewellery for the feet is no doubt the anklet. The jewellery has ancient origins, believe it or not, being featured in Mesopotamian civilisation, and was popular in the Egyptian, Arab, and Indian cultures as well.

Back then, only women of royal class flaunted their anklets as a symbol of wealth and status. Today, anklets are worn as a fashion accessory and they symbolise femininity more than anything. Anklets are available in a variety of designs and prices.

A traditional style incorporates oxidised silver in gorgeous intricate details; a western style involves metal accents (gold, silver, rose gold, and more!) with stunning contemporary designs. Some have tiny, simple details; some are heavy and bolder designs. Some drape the entire top part of the foot with a ring around a finger to hold it in place, while others look beautiful with tiny dangling shimmery bits.

Some look stunning with sparkling rhinestones, while some give off a boho chic vibes with beads and tassels. Anklets are a traditionally romantic gift, often bought by young lovers for their ladies. Also, they are a favoured gift for new born baby girls, as well as for birthdays and even weddings and anniversaries. From the anklets meant for just one ankle, to the traditional pair, all versions are well beloved.

Toe rings are not new, as these were historically worn by Indian women to symbolise their married status. Although today, these are simply fashionable, to be flaunted by women of every age.

Toe rings are enticing. Just like anklets, they come in a wide selection of materials, colours, styles and designs. Whether we want to go for a traditional mode or western, silver or gold, gem or rhinestone toe rings will subtly bedazzle everyone around you.

Besides the tangible jewellery, henna tattoos are another option for adorning the feet and ankles. The westernisation of this 'desi' tradition has increased reach, and these look graceful and amp up the appeal of the neatly pedicured foot by that much.

By Zohaina Amreen

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