

BREAKUP BLUES

ADHORA AHMED

It was just another day of procrastinating. I was listening to music on shuffle, when suddenly a jolt of electricity went through me with enough voltage to raise a corpse from the dead. The classic breakup song "I'm So Lonely Broken Angel" had come on. It always reminded me of my ex, so I broke down in tears. But when the song was over, I came to my senses. I've never had a boyfriend in my life, let alone exes!

Other breakup songs have elicited similar reactions from me in the past, but why? Since Valentine's Day is coming up, I put on my journalist hat to find some answers. I conducted a mass survey where people from all over the universe (alternates included) shared why they like breakup songs, if they do at all.

This investigation provided me with some interesting insights. Firstly, I noticed that a perfect 100 percent of all the participants enjoyed listening to breakup songs. Secondly, my hypothesis was that the participants would be predominantly teenagers and twenty-somethings, because these age groups tend to suffer from love's pitfalls the most.

I was surprised to find out that about 35 percent of all participants were above



the age of forty. Do old flames burn stronger as you age? "Who said the flames have to be old, or that they have to burn?" smirks Lovely Khatun, a veteran matchmaker from Narayanganj, who recently found a match for herself. "My ex-husband doesn't deserve to be called an old flame, because I doused his memories in cold water as soon as I left him. I'm now more interested in my new flame, who doesn't burn but gives me warmth. Now," she flips through the folder of bio-data

before her, "Would you like a flame in your life, sweetie?"

While 55 percent of the responses came from my expected age groups, the remaining 10 percent claimed to be below twelve. Not to sound like a boomer, but don't these elementary school kids have something better to do than cry to Lana Del Rey, like playing video games, maybe? "None of your business, zoomer," says Poltu, a third-grader from Brahmanbaria, rolling his eyes. "By the way, I noticed

your pun. 'Video Games' is Queen Lana's best song, hands down."

Lastly, my findings included the reasons why people gravitate towards breakup songs. I assumed it was in order to fuel the pain a failed relationship leaves in its wake. Astonishingly, only 25 percent of all participants cited breakups as the reason, while a whopping 60 percent claimed to have been lifelong singles. The remaining 15 percent said they were in a relationship, but I think they were secretly pining over an ex and didn't want their current significant others to know.

"Look, I have a miserable life," sighs Ananda Sarkar Pulok, a software engineer from Uttara, "I have a thankless job, a boss who gives me hell, a non-existent love life, and parents who have given up on me. My only solace in this purgatory are breakup songs. If you hear 'Bukta Faitta Jay' from my room on Fridays, just let me be." I have to say, he has an ironic name.

Well, this was quite a journey. I would've liked to say that I learned something, but I have a sudden urge to crank up "Tumi Keno Bojhona".

Adhora Ahmed listens to too much "sad white boy" songs. Recommend her better music at adhora.ahmed@gmail.com

6 Ways to Celebrate Valentine's Day if You're Single

ANUSHA MOURSHED

Most single people usually don't acknowledge Valentine's Day as a celebratory occasion solely because they aren't in love. Contrary to popular belief, Valentine's Day is for everyone and not just lovers. You may take this occasion as a chance to express your love and appreciation for all those who matter, even yourself.

Here are 6 ways to celebrate Valentine's Day even if you're as single as a Pringle.

SINGLES-ONLY DINNER

Go all out with your friends and host a singles-only dinner because why should couples have all the fun? Cook or order all your favourite food, throw yourselves a feast and toast to your self-sustenance. It sure will be a lot more fun to dress up and join in on the festivities with your favourite people instead of staying home alone and complaining about having nothing to do. Put on your favourite playlist and dance away.

SET UP A DINNER FOR YOUR PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS

If you're not too resentful about couples celebrating the day, you could put together a little dinner for your parents or grandparents. A few personalised touches such as bringing their favourite flowers or recreating the setup of their first encounter, if possible would be a delightful surprise. It is a great opportunity for you to celebrate their love as well as to show your gratitude towards them at the same time.

SECRET SANTA BUT IT'S VALENTINE'S SO, SECRET VALENTINE?



Get all your friends to jump aboard on your very own little Valentine's Day tradition and put together a Secret Valentine.

Get each other gifts anonymously and have all the fun receiving your desired items and trying to figure out who your secret

valentine is.

TREAT YOURSELF

Splurge on a nice piece of jewellery or go shopping for clothes. Give yourself a cheat day and eat all you want. If you've had a long week or even if you haven't, get a massage or go to the spa. Break all the rules and use the day as an excuse to treat yourself.

KARAOKE NIGHT

Karaoke nights are always entertaining especially if you're with the right crowd. Sing your heart out with your friends and family. Keep some accessories to get in the zone for those funky songs that you know will give you a good laugh. Include songs that have a lot of sentiment and memories attached so you can celebrate those special moments spent together through music.

SEND COOKIES AND CARDS TO ALL YOUR LOVED ONES

Sometimes there's no bigger joy than making someone else happy. If you're one of those people who like giving back to people, bake some cookies and spend some time making hand-made cards to show your love to all those who matter to you.

Just because you are single shouldn't have to mean that you must despise Valentine's Day. You shouldn't have to look at it as a festival beneath you. A culture that promotes healthy and loving relationships is a wonderful idea, celebrate it!

Anusha often has a lot on her plate. Send her memes and motivation at anusha.mourshed11@gmail.com