

To keep, or not to keep, that is the question

ZABIN TAZRIN NASHITA

Is your room overflowing with useless trinkets, making it difficult to stay organised? Are you constantly thinking about clearing out your living space so you have a neat room that brings tears of joy to your mother's eyes?

As a fellow hoarder, I understand, and I'm here to guide you through the process of clearing junk that you cannot seem to toss out.

DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE FABRIC OF SPACE

You've worn that T-shirt you bought at a comic con too often for it to serve any purpose as a memento. All the clothes you're keeping around for DIY projects are better off being donated, because you have enough fabric to start industrially producing scrunchies.

Then again, you did make some great memories with your friends the day you

bought that T-shirt. The scrunchie business isn't a bad idea either, just in case your academics go south.

RETHINK HOW YOU STORE YOUR STUFF

I know being a 90s kid or an early 00s kid is the centrepiece to many personalities, but you really don't need those floppy disks and cassettes. The Blu-Ray copies of Disney films have more scratches on them than a cat owner, so what's the point in saving them?

Well, you can't forget the possibility of regretting this decision upon finding someone with a collection of old school storage mediums. Throwing away old mixtapes thinking cassettes are useless may be a mistake, because Bob Dylan just doesn't sound the same on Spotify.

TRY TO CONTAIN-YOURSELF

The serum bottles that cost you a fortune are almost too cute to throw out. The little vials of cosmetics also seem like good storage for trifles you do not own yet. However, will they fit into the matryosh-

ka doll of containers you already have? If not, consider getting rid of them.

It is a great idea, in fact, until you need to go on a trip and realise that the container would have been the perfect size for you to carry some shampoo.

COMICS AND ILLUSTRATED STORY-BOOKS? REALLY?

Think about it, are you ever going to read them again? Even if you do, it is highly unlikely they are going to give you the same kick they did when you were young.

Keeping them is a waste of space. You are much better off giving them all to me.

STEAMPUNK AESTHETIC IS COOL, BUT...

It's time to accept that the ancient phone you have switched out for a new one has passed on. So, unless it is a Nokia 3310 that can double as a hammer, I suggest bidding it adieu. If you have kept broken devices with the intention of deconstructing them someday, it is highly unlikely that your ventures will go further than taking out the ball of your mechanical mouse.

If you are understandably frustrated at the unhelpful nature of this guide, I would like to remind you that I too, am a hoarder for good reason.

If you want to scream at Zabin Tazrin Nashita for bamboozling you, find her at: zabintn@gmail.com

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Should I delete this picture?

SHADYA NAHER SHEYAM

You'd be bluffing if you said you never encountered this dilemma before. There will always be occasions when you question whether certain items of your phone's memory palace deserve to be carried into the future. It doesn't matter if you're a person who's decisive or carefree.

My decision making mechanism frequently hits a deadlock due to the fact that I'm a shameless hoarder. I think that to delete a photograph is not just to erase its presence, but also to sentence a fleeting moment of significance to permanent obscurity.

Therefore, emptying my gallery doesn't just mean deleting what is no longer important, it's about determining which memories from my past are worth keeping and how to incorporate them into my current life. And there lies the dilemma.

There is no doubting that as we grow older, we become more self-aware. We constantly prune our past, similarly to how a gardener maintains the form of an overgrown shrub. Deleting is a tedious process as it entails breaking relationships

with earlier attachments.

That being said, it's essential and may be relaxing, especially following experiences like a break-up.

For me, it's not so much the aching fingertips as it is the mental turmoil that makes this process so tiring. There are parts of our lives that we don't want to relive, and that's why closing those chapters and reading them again may be difficult. Deleting becomes more difficult when we are confronted with an overpowering mixture of emotions and anguish that is both uplifting and devastating at the same time.

Having had my life interrupted by the pandemic, even the most mundane of photographs in my gallery transported me to a distant universe during lockdowns, to a world where unmasked classmates sharing a bowl of potato wedges in the cafeteria or enjoying a cup of steaming coffee was still considered acceptable.

Certain photographs such as a group photo taken during school rag day, the last selfie taken with a loved one or even the blurry snap of city lights are tools in our arsenal to freeze time once in a while

to make sense of our world and assist us to sail through it.

One of my friends once questioned me about why I take so many images when I feel it's hard to get rid of them. I still don't have an answer. Maybe I will, when I can finally grasp why that one shot, which I took three years ago on a random November evening of a little girl playing with cats in childhood innocence, never ceases to bring me delight.

Taking a cue from Marie Kondo, I return to complete the process of decluttering my gallery. I re-examine the irreplaceable photograph; it is flawed in

every observable aspect.
Do I need to delete it?

Shadya Naher Sheyam attempts to live life like Ashima from *The Namesake*. Talk to her about Mira Nair films at sadianaharsiam@gmail.com



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA