

Why do some men dress so terribly?

ARANYO RISHI CHOWDHURY

There's no pulling the punch about this. Most guys don't have the slightest clue about how to dress themselves. Even amongst teens, there's often a startling lack of interest in fashion. At this point, we've seen it all. Outfits with horribly mismatched colours, skinny jeans that haven't seen the laundry in weeks, hoodies with sandals, and other despicable decisions made at the expense of one's appearance. One can't help but ask: are these failed attempts at fashion? Or rather reluctance towards putting in an effort into your looks?

Most attribute it towards men's plain-old indifference to their appearance. While it is quite common for girls to care about fashion, the same cannot be said for men. It's regrettable that what birthed this culture was the oppressive societal pressure on women to dress in ways appealing to the male gaze, and look "presentable".

An unfortunate by-product is that there's a great disparity between how much compliment men receive about their attires as opposed to women. After all, if you don't have an incentive to dress up, why bother? You slide into your new Converse, throw on some edgy rings, and put on your best jacket to go hang out with The Boys™, only to be greeted with a

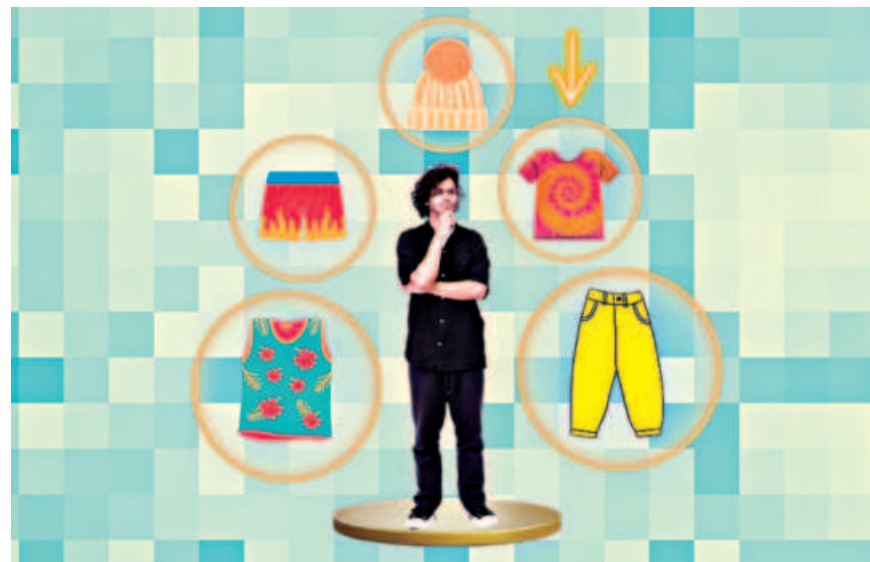


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dry, lifeless "Nice shoes".

Since appreciating men's outfits isn't a common occurrence, we tend to be a bit clueless in terms of fashion. Not just regarding what we think other people would like, but also what we think we want to look like.

Some boys hold a strictly utilitarian view. According to them, there's absolutely no point in dressing up for a

bunch of strangers. Of course, it would be nonsensical and superficial to do so. To those with this outlook, it probably never occurred that people who put work into their outfits don't do it just for validation from people they don't know. There's the tiniest chance that maybe, it's a form of self-expression. Maybe there's a lot of satisfaction to be had in dressing up just for yourself.

Others might say that obsessing over what you wear is an inherently feminine trait.

"Why should I, a man, worry about such womanly things such as the colour of my shoes? Who has the time for that?"

Instead, men should spend all their time hitting the gym, hunting wild boars, providing for their families, and jumping away from cool explosions. If taking ten minutes to think about what to wear for the day is enough to threaten someone's masculinity, some things might be worth re-evaluating.

The moment we stop putting ourselves in boxes, the possibilities start to open up. We shouldn't need any external factors to feel good about how we look.

Wearing clothes you like seeing yourself in is a way to express yourself. It's a projection of your personality. It tells people about your sense of style, and might even leave a lasting impression. When you wear something that represents you, it can give you a newfound confidence. It can even give you the boost that makes conquering the world around you slightly easier.

Rishi's chronic procrastination is ruining his life. Send him more things to procrastinate with at: reeshe46321@gmail.com

Do you love your partner or do you love "love"?

SHAIKH SABIK KAMAL

Love is a four-letter word we have all been obsessed with at one point of our life or another. Whether it's literature, music, movie, drama or real life – love is a ruler which reigns supreme. Having consumed the deeply unrealistic portrayals of romance in pop culture, we all thrive to believe we will love someday and we'd do it "properly".

But do we ever stop to question ourselves whether we actually love our partner or, just the concept of what we think love is?

The addiction towards romance starts from adolescence. We're all longing to find our significant other to get to love them, go on dates, post pictures, and do all of the things we see couples around us do. And while we do actually find someone and do all of those things, love is much, much more than that.

Love is never not beautiful, but we fail to see the true worth of love hidden behind all the cushy cheesy narratives. Love is a box full of things we treasure. When we try picking it up, we realise that we have mistaken its weight. It's only after we've boarded the train of relationships that we realise that our journey is a far more winding road than we believed.

Young people often make the mis-

take of naming unanswered feelings "love", hurl themselves into relationships, and then fail to keep the bridge between them and their partner.

Usually, it starts out with those magical days when you can't stop thinking of going out with them. Everything seems perfect as the phrase "butterflies in your stomach" starts making more sense to you. Every moment you spend with your significant other feels like the most successful investment of time you could make.

Then life moves forward a little, and thoughts of time for our beloved get trapped in rusty crevices. You don't get to speak as much with them either, nor do you want to. And when you do, things you say

seem like just hollow words then.

Finally, the magic starts to dissipate. Soon there's fights, misunderstandings, miscommunications, broken promises, betrayals, and eventually two broken hearts. And as natural as all of it may sound, you may have never loved them. You loved love, you loved the feeling and the romance that it warranted. But you failed to love the person.

Love isn't merely a feeling, it's a commitment. The version of love portrayed through mainstream media fails to capture what it truly stands for. Loving someone is more than just any magic you share between each other. It's finding the person, embracing them and letting them embrace you.

Love can be a compromise, an understanding between two persons, a media of communication for our inner selves. To those who chase it for the highs, love is just another drug. But love is a wish granted to those who find their worth in their partner when no one else does. Even during the toughest blizzards, it exists like a veil.

So, let's not lie to ourselves and chase only the love depicted in movies without coming to terms with our feelings. For love isn't simply an experience, it's also about whom we choose to share its beauty with and who we become for it.

Shaikh Sabik Kamal loves moonlighting as a love guru, handing out romance advice to his friends for free. Remind him to stop at sabik2005kamal4787@gmail.com

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