**Are You a Fashion Victim?**



Looking good and being pretty has always been something that many a woman has **aspired** to **achieve** in their lives. Some women are **blessed** with the fact that they are naturally beautiful; which provides them with a **leg up**, so to speak, in the fashion world. However for those of us a bit on the plain side, that **extra mile** may be required to make that statement, to be remembered, to be the hit of the party. Daily these women are practically killing themselves, all in the **pursuit** of being fashionable.

So much importance is placed on people, both men and women, **staying hip** and **in style** that it is an important part to living in society. Women especially are taken in by this and go out of their way, and beyond what would be **deemed** sensible, to be in fashion. **Starving** themselves to fit into a dress that stops being made at a certain size because fashion designers only want certain people wearing their clothes; it seems like you need to be **stick** or less to fit into the **booming** fashion world, which is why you get women saying things like ‘I will eat tomorrow. What’s a missed meal here or there **compared** to how amazing I will look in that dress?’, because somewhere in our history fashion became more important than eating. You can only imagine if our **cavemen** **ancestors** thought, while trying to **survive** the bitter cold and giant **predators**, that their **descendants** would **forgo** food for the sake of fashion. There was no such thing as fashion, only **survival**, and they would surely think that women of today were a bit out of their minds.

Does this make sense? No, not really, but do a lot of women both young and old say this as they look in a mirror? Probably more than one would think. Though **efforts** have been made to change this viewpoint and **broaden**the horizon of the fashion world, the **pressure** is still out there for women to try and make the unrealistic standard.  Supermodels, pop stars and movie stars, are the idols and role models who, **subconsciously**, those of the female **persuasion** compare themselves to. These women are of a beauty that is most certainly hard to **obtain**, yet many women try despite this fact.

Still it is funny how when the term ‘fashion **victim**’ is used that people think it is in **reference** to someone who is out of fashion. Someone who is wearing last season’s hit or whose **outfit** is just **utterly** **atrocious**. But the truth of it is that it goes both ways and **perhaps** it should be changed to state that they are not exactly a victim of fashion but a **slave** to fashion; slave to the **trends** and **fads**, a slave to the ideals and the drive to be like everyone else. Being different to everyone else, **singled out** and not like your **peers**, is certainly a reason to go **above and beyond** what would be considered the norm. It is a part of the human **condition**, actually is a matter of the animal condition as a whole, to **fit in**. **In the wild** when an animal is different from the **herd**, different from the **pack**, it’s singled out by the others. Difference in the **animal kingdom** is a sign of genetic **defect** or **flaw**; so perhaps being a fashion defect or victim is the same for the human **species**? It’s not hard to see how this could **compel** women to do whatever it took to not be the **outcast**. On a genetic level we are **predisposed** to this behavior, so it is only **fitting** for us to wish to satisfy this need.

So not eating, not drinking, **dieting**, exercising, and **waiting in line** for hours on hours to get into a one day only **sale**; women in a **store** on a major sale day are **akin** to any predator out **hunting** and **stalking** their **prey**, only in this case the prey happens to be a new pair of Prada **boots**. As **committed** as any **hunter** a woman will **defend** her ‘kill’ with all she has, even getting a bit **violent** with another hunter. A **black eye**, some **bruised** **ribs**, **torn** and ripped clothing and even the possibility of a **police record** seems to be more than worth the price of having that latest look and being able to go into work the next day looking like you just stepped off the **runway**.

The **lengths** that women go through can be rather **ridiculous** and can be **summed up** with a summary of a **skit** I saw on Saturday Night Live: Two women were competing for whoever had the smallest hat, one kept **outdoing** the other and getting **praise** for being so hip and fashionable, leaving the other angrily eating bread. **Back and forth** they went until the woman who was constantly being outdone finally beat the other woman and was trying to gain the praise from her peers, who were all in tears. They told the woman that their other friend had died in a car accident that morning and, **regardless**, she was not going to be the most fashionable because no one could outdo the now dead friend; just when the one woman thought that her troubles were finally over, the supposed dead friend comes **strolling** in and **promptly** states that **faking** your own death was the latest trend in fashion.

Słowniczek

Ridiculously-absurdalnie (np. wysoki)

achieve-osiągać +sth – coś (np. sukces)

effort-wysiłek (fizyczny, psychiczny)

regardless-nie zważając +of sb/sth – na kogoś/coś

obtain-form. otrzymywać, uzyskiwać, dostawać, zdobywać

peer-rówieśnik, rówieśniczka

pack-stado (zwierząt), sfora (psów), wataha (wilków)

aspire-dążyć (do czegoś - to / after sth)

blessed-(po)błogosławiony

give sb a leg up-dać komuś wsparcie; wesprzeć kogoś

extra mile-dodatkowe starania

pursuit-pogoń, pościg

stay hip-być, pozostawać na bieżąco z modą

to be in style-być w modzie

starve-zagłodzić

stick-patyk

booming-kwitnący

compare-porównywać

caveman-jaskiniowiec

ancestor-przodek

survive-przeżyć, przetrwać

predator-drapieżnik

descendant-potomek

forgo-odmawiać sobie (czegoś)

survival-przetrwanie, przeżycie

broaden-rozszerzać, zwiększać

 subconsciously-podświadomie

persuasion-perswazja, przekonywanie

victim-ofiara

reference-nawiązanie (do czegoś)

outfit-strój, ubiór

atrocious-potworny, okropny

perhaps-(być) może

Slave-niewolnik

trend-trend, tendencja

fad-fanaberia, chwilowa moda

single out-wyróżniać, wyodrębniać

above and beyond-wykraczający poza (coś)

conditio-stan, status, uwarunkowanie

fit in-pasować, dopasować się

in the wild-w naturalnym środowisku

herd-stado (koni, bydła, itp.)

animal kingdom-królestwo zwierząt

defect-defekt, wada

flaw-skaza, wada

species-gatunek

compel-zmuszać kogoś do czegoś

outcast-wyrzutek

predisposedpredysponowany, mający skłonności do czegoś

fitting-trafny, właściwy

diet-odchudzać się, stosować dietę

wait in line-czekać w kolejce

sale-wyprzedaż

store-sklep

akin-zbliżony, podobny

hunt-polować

stalk-tropić, śledzić

prey-ofiara, zdobycz

boot-but, kozak

committed-oddany, wierny (czemuś)

hunter-myśliwy, łowca ; drapieżnik

defend-bronić

violent-agresywny, gwałtowny, brutalny

black eye-podbite oko

bruised-posiniaczony, stłuczony

rib-żebro

torn-rozdarty, podarty

runway-wybieg (dla modeli)

police record-kartoteka policyjna

go to great lengths to do sth-zadawać sobie wiele trudu żeby coś zrobić

sum up-podsumować, zreasumować

skit-skecz ; parodia

outdo-prześcigać, przewyższać

praise-pochwała

back and forth-tam i z powrotem; wte i wewte

stroll-przechadzać się, spacerować

promptly-szybko; natychmiast

fake-udawać, symulować

pressure-nacisk, napór

deem-uważać, uznawać, sądzić +sth – coś

1. Women often choose not to eat in order to fit into a certain outfit.

a) Prawda b) Fałsz

2. People have a predisposed desire to look good.

a) Prawda b)Fałsz

3. Many women are trying to comply with the unrealistic dictates of fashion.

a) Prawda b) Fałsz

4. Animals, unlike humans, do not exclude odd specimens from the group.

a) Prawda b) Fałsz

5. Women on a shopping spree are similar to predators on a hunt.

a) Prawda b) Fałsz