

# The snuggle is real

## A Slumbrous Blanket's Enlivening Journey From Fibre To Quilthood

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5:30 AM

*As the alarm rings, it is put on snooze, marking the start of the morning ordeal. But someone, has already woken up...*

Get up you lazy fella! I don't want to be thrown off again by your angry mom. It's disgusting how I am tormented each time you oversleep. Oh! Hi there! I am Blankie, and right now, I am mad at Ben. Ben, who? Well, another teenager like yourself who can't get enough of his favourite blanket.

5:45 AM

*Alarm. Snooze...*

Now, now, I know Ben loves me. It's natural, given that sleeping causes our blood pressure and frequency of breathing to dip. As a result, the blood circulation slows down and the body tends to feel cold, wanting some extra warmth, which is where I, your favourite blanket come in. But other than the science-y jazz, I am a super fuzzy, warm companion which is why the likes of Ben want me while eating, watching TV, on the couch, on the study table, and what not. I wish there was a 'blanket term' for everything. Pun intended.

6:00 AM

*Alarm. in an attempt to snooze, a groggy hand lands the clock on the floor...*

Enough, Ben, get out of your la la land now. Though, I don't really blame you. After all, I am well aware of my stress relieving qualities. In fact, my 'weight' variety is used to treat insomnia as it stimulates the production of serotonin in the body. And that's just one of my variants. There's the military blanket, made of 70% virgin wool and considered the warmest, but not one I would recommend, rather too coarse for my liking. And then there's the fire blanket, made of woven glass fabric and used to extinguish fire; cashmere blanket considered the softest in the world; and the latest electric blankets – again not recommended as it has caused many mishaps due to overheating.

6:15 AM

*A woman angrily marches into the room, throwing off the blanket, leaving a curled up Ben visible in all his sleeping glory...*

Really now? Throwing me? Do you even know I was an item of luxury back in the day. So coveted that people would offer me as gifts. And didn't someone tell you it is rather uncultured to be throwing off a cultural souvenir? In Morocco, I am painstakingly created by Berber women for weeks. Beautifully decorated with tassels and sequins, I am worn by the bride on her wedding day. They call me 'Handira'. So much cultural significance, yet to be compared to that bedcover!

6:30 AM

*After an eternity of poking and prodding, Ben finally wakes up. He's about to mumble another excuse, when the mother interrupts "So, what's our story today?"*

\*yawn\* same ol' same ol'...I was completing my assignment...blah...blah...! My tale's way better than Ben! I started out as a cover made of animal skin and grass. In 14<sup>th</sup> century, a Flemish weaver and wool merchant from Bristol, Thomas Blanket, wove the very first woolen blanket. Yes, and thus the name of my clan was upgraded from a 'cover' to a blanket. But then some say that it was the other way around. But, what's in a name, anyway!

6:45 AM

*A routine heated exchange later, Ben picks up his favourite blanket for another round of cosy snuggle*

Remember the times we watched cartoons, how you hid inside me when you wanted to cry, and rolled into me as an adult? It's been a long journey since and I am hoping to make it to the mahogany box underneath the bed, where you keep all your treasures.

(Aayushi is currently pursuing BCom (Hons) from Hansraj College, DU.)



# Pride without prejudice

## A Much-Needed Reinvention Of Classics For The Current Cohort

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In 1796, Jane Austen wrote one of the most quoted lines in literary history: "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife". But if this critically acclaimed English author were to write her beloved novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, in 2024, she could not have written the same line. Why not? Well, the grand

balls of yore, whose only purpose was to 'launch' women into society, have been long replaced by outings to the malls, declaration of love in the form of covert letters is taken over by texts, and most importantly, a man's fortune is now estimated in terms of bitcoins, not estates.

A man in possession of 'great fortune' today may prefer to take a quick tour of space or buy out a Fortune-10 company. Today's Darcy is someone who owns a private jet, flaunts a Louis Vuitton belt in the coffee shop, or wears a Rolex watch even to the gym. Getting a wife does not top the list of priorities for a man

of fortune! Also, what women do with their life and time has changed as well. No longer can we find an Elizabeth taking a leisurely walk and casually running into her paramour at a neighbourhood park. Well, she is busy breaking the glass ceiling in her office boardroom, isn't she? In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Austen could not have imagined putting an educated and intelligent woman in the shackles of marriage simply because the latter needed money. Besides, amidst space issues, immaculately manicured parks are not a frequent sight. *Pride and Prejudice* is also a classic tale of enemies turning into lovers,

but how do you become adversaries today? With so many emojis that can melt your heart in a jiffy, so many e-commerce sites that can deliver the prettiest of bouquets within a few minutes of an argument, remaining sour with each other for long is next to impossible. And who knows, today Elizabeth's hatred for Darcy might be transformed into love at a lightning speed when they find they can bond over the same influencers, pop artists, and TV shows.

So you see, even though the classics will never really grow old, they definitely need to be reimagined for every generation.

