

The Island of Fashion Fads: an Allegorical Fantasy Story

By Evi Sargeant

Twenty-seven years ago, I visited a peculiar island during my travels around the world. The people living on this island named it *Fashion Fads* because of the wide variety of fashion attire the people wore there. When first I arrived on this island, I noticed the people living there always walked around in specific groups of about fifteen people. None of the groups liked each other or intermingled because each group had unique and strange clothing and fashion tastes. Each group abhorred the way the other groups dressed.

The Island of Fashion Fads has enough space to fit all of its inhabitants as well as plenty of resources such as food and water to sustain the people. The island especially has an abundance of cotton and other materials for making all kinds of clothing and accessories for people to wear. The people making these clothes live in small communities spread throughout the island. Each community has about fifteen people and only creates one article of clothing that they really like such as ripped jeans or cropped tops.

The first group I visited called themselves the Lika Legging People. These specific people always wore workout clothes such as tank tops, sports shirts, and many different colored and patterned leggings as their everyday clothes. These people even wore sports clothes to formal occasions such as fancy parties, weddings and to church services. I was quite appalled when I first saw them walking around in skin-tight leggings. I thought they must be going to or coming from an activity that involves exercising. However, I soon learned this is just their normal attire for every day. These people are very friendly and their ages varied from young kids to middle aged adults.

After visiting the Lika Legging People, I met another group called the Levi Ripped Denim People. These people wear really expensive denim jeans that have giant pre-ripped holes all over them. The jean styles ranged anywhere from already distressed edges on the pant cuffs, to tattered bell bottoms, to incredibly skin tight jeans with more holes than actual cloth. I was shocked again to see them wearing these ripped pants to every occasion, including weddings and funerals. The people in this group who wear these jeans are mostly teenagers and a few young adults.

Another community I came across was named the Nordstrom Cropped Top People. These people wore many different types of shirts such as turtlenecks, v-necks, sweatshirts and t-shirts. However, all these shirts stopped around their

stomach area or higher leaving these people's midriffs exposed. This fashion statement confused me because their stomachs would become cold due to walking around with only a cropped shirt on. I asked about this problem to one of them and she shrugged and assured me that the cold was no problem, since she'd been exposing her stomach since infancy. This group consists only of teenage girls ranging in age from thirteen to eighteen years old. This group is also very temperamental and moody, so I didn't stay in their community for long.

After seeing the Nordstrom Cropped Top People, the last group I visited was the Louboutin Stilettos People. This distinguished group wore incredibly high heels that came in a variety of colors from simple black to lavish gold encrusted with diamonds and expensive jewels. These people walked slowly and with incredible care because if they walked fast or ran they would certainly twist their ankle and fall to the ground. They also tried not to stand for long periods of time or else their feet would hurt as their toes swelled and joints ached. This means the Louboutin Stilettos People refused to walk any distances and instead depended upon taxis to take them everywhere. Once at an event, these footsore people insisted on sitting and were rarely seen standing. This group is comprised primarily of women between the ages of twenty to fifty. In addition, because they cannot walk very fast, this group is known for always being late. I stayed for a day with the Louboutin Stilettos People and then, for fear of missing my flight off the island, I said good bye and traveled home.

Each community that I met on The Island of Fashion Fads was unique. Each group invited me to stay with them, provided that I wear their individual fashion trend. I, however, declined all the offers because I thought each of the trends rather ridiculous. I don't want my stomach to freeze in winter and sunburn in summer. I do not wish to wear ripped jeans or ultra tight leggings. And I certainly don't want to torture my feet in Stiletto heels. I prefer a more practical style of dress.