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Wear & Tear

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Wear & Tear

by

Wymberley K. Davis



office

“fired for refusing

to wear
high heels.

go home.

It felt really wrong.

I felt embarrassed.”

⁹I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, ¹⁰but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

¹¹A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. ¹⁵But women^b will be saved^c through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

#

free

the

nipple



shorts were *[too long]*

~~"improper clothing"~~

€1,500

€150 owed for

each

pair

of

~~"im~~

proper" shorts

1863 Carte De Visite

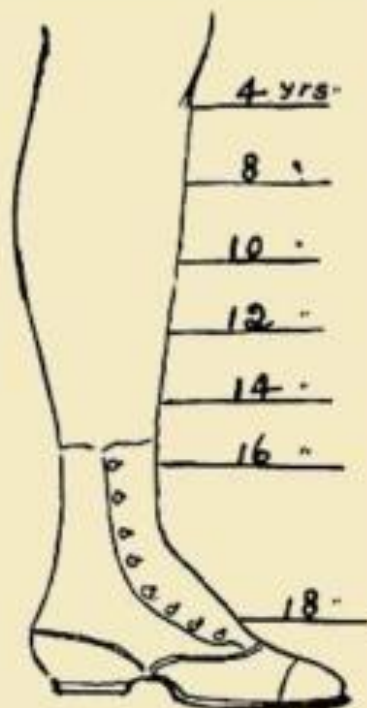
Nashville, Tennessee



Girl in Embellished Bonnet

Her Bonnet has a "Lip" on Inner Brim, which helps keep Bonnet on the head. A feature usually found only on the bonnets of little girls.

According to her Skirt length she was probably about age 5 or 6.



The proper length for girls' skirts at various ages.

from Godey's
April 1866

“Nasty, put some clothes on,

I told ya

Don't walk out your house without your clothes on,

I told ya

Girl, what you thinkin' 'bout lookin' that to' down,

I told ya

These men don't want no hot female

That's been around the block female, you nasty, girl”

- Destiny's Child. 2002.

*[slut shaming...
doesn't age well]*



“garb

~~un~~acceptable

orderly

manner

prepared

to be

punished”



"I feel like...

a warrior...

a warrior princess...

my way...

superhero."

"no longer

accepted..." *[but was she ever?]*

"...must

respect"

response:

“QUEEN”

PRUDE

OLD FASHIONED

BORE

TEASE

CHEEKY

ASKING FOR IT

SLUT

WHORE

Don't measure a woman's worth by her clothes.



Terre Des Femmes

“unfeminine freak”

“the girl in pantaloons”

[but why?]

“better wages”

*[i wonder if we'll ever have
equal pay?]*



“women
run in sports bras...

‘you must be asking for it,
right?’

it’s hot outside.

demanding,
challenging,
vigorous.”



appointed

magistrates

the “γυναικονόμοι”

[today we just call them “men”]



"jeans alibi verdict"

``it's common knowledge impossible to
remove jeans without their *[the wearer's]*
cooperation. "

[yeah. fuck you.]



“the Nicelys –

Act,

Speak,

Sit,

Think,

and Dress.

Dress Nicely

nearly

pushed

me

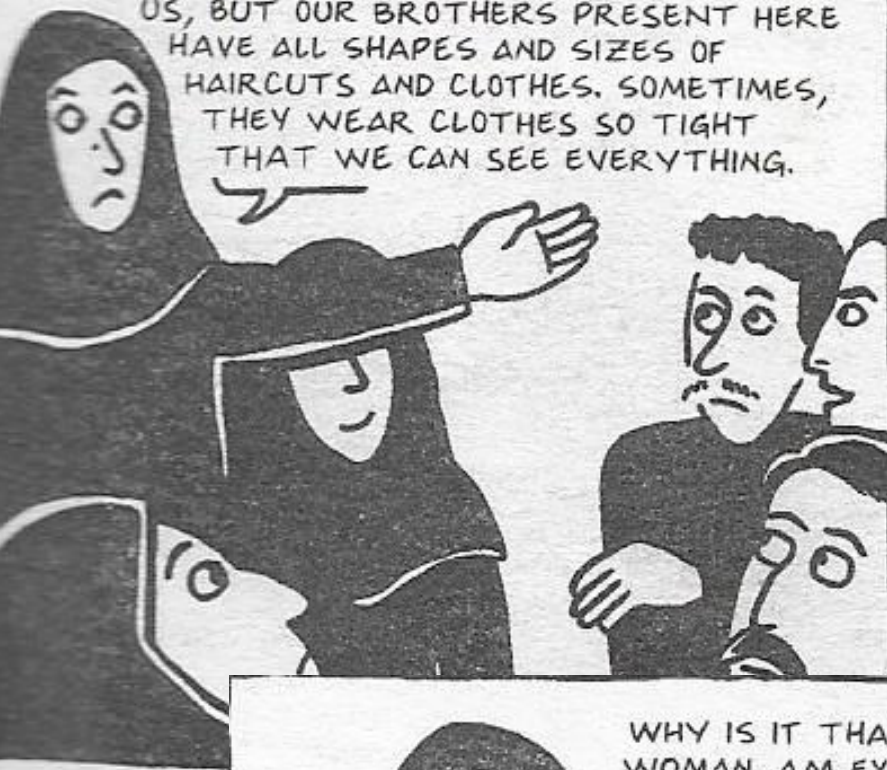
to

the

e-

dge”

YOU DON'T HESITATE TO COMMENT ON US, BUT OUR BROTHERS PRESENT HERE HAVE ALL SHAPES AND SIZES OF HAIRCUTS AND CLOTHES. SOMETIMES, THEY WEAR CLOTHES SO TIGHT THAT WE CAN SEE EVERYTHING.



WHY IS IT THAT I, AS A WOMAN, AM EXPECTED TO FEEL NOTHING WHEN WATCHING THESE MEN WITH THEIR CLOTHES SCULPTED ON BUT THEY, AS MEN, CAN GET EXCITED BY TWO INCHES LESS OF MY HEAD-SCARF?



“The differentiation in clothing between men and women arose from the male's desire to assert superiority over the female and to hold her to his service. This he accomplished through the ages by means of special clothing which hampered or handicapped the female in her movements. Then men prohibited one sex from wearing the clothing of the other, in order to maintain this difference”

- Lawrence
Langer



lashes(40)

(forty)lashes

but!

“I am a ~~gentlemen~~...

So,

you may wear

your shirt

during the punishment”

*[gee,
thanks.]*



Note from the Author

Wear & Tear is about those in the world who have done and still do their best to *tear* women down and those who have used what women *wear* to do it.

But more importantly, this poem is about women *wearing* whatever they please, without fear of reprisals, and *tearing* down the walls that confine them along the way.

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