

On Missing Socks

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The missing sock problem is one of the greatest and most famous unexplained phenomenons of paranormal activity that afflicts the modern man. You go do your laundry: in goes a sweater, a pair of jeans, a shirt, knickers and socks. A pair of socks. You turn on the washing machine and go about your business. When the cycle is done, you retrieve your clothes. There is the sweater, the pair of jeans, the shirt, the knickers and a sock. One sock. Where do these odd pieces of clothing go? And how do they get there?

Many scientists have pondered upon this matter, funds have been invested into solving this mystery. But no concrete answers have been obtained, we are merely left with theories. The most popular one is that washing machines feed on socks. If this were the case, why only socks? And why only one sock at a time? Another hypothesis is that of alien abduction (to me this idea sounds extremely far-fetched). The theory I support makes perfect sense. It is very simple and straightforward: sock divorce.

When one thinks about it, socks are thrown together into the world without the possibility of choosing their partners. So it is very likely that a pair of socks, after realising they are not 'sock mates' might get tired of each other, argue and part ways. Clean, single, and ready to mingle. Some socks want to be independent, and do not care if they are causing their owners great inconvenience.

I, for one, have spent valuable time looking for matching socks whilst getting ready for my day. Mornings are already tough enough without having to rush around searching for fugitives that may be hiding in your room. Regardless of how careful I am, the fluffy bastards seem to slip from my fingers.

Countless books have been written about this matter, mainly aimed at children. One of my favourites is *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. The thrilling adventure of the protagonists culminates when a courageous sock liberates Dobbie, the house-elf. It is my personal belief that adults would do well to pick these books up, and inform themselves about this crucial topic.

Yes, this affair is no balderdash. There is a whole Division dedicated to this problem. The Department of Missing Socks was founded during the Civil War in the States of America by Soldier Ankleson. Zack Ankleson, as a result of being quite a bad soldier, was placed in full charge of the socks of the enlisted men and officers. The soldiers were required to turn in a pair of socks in order to get new ones. It was them that Ankleson realised that most soldiers seemed to have odd socks. And so the missing sock phenomenon was first noticed, and has been puzzling us ever since. But do not fret, as the Department's motto wisely states: 'No sock left behind'!

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