



White Walls

prose

Sierra White

Note to Self: Grey shoes seem like a nice balance between black and white shoes. But white shoes are the foundational blank canvas I feel that I need. Tan is also a neutral—sometimes it feels equally as foundational as white without the worry of keeping them clean—sometimes.

I wonder sometimes—well a lot of times if the things I think look good on others will also look good on me. I am also super self-conscious of my skin. It's a weird thing really. I always wonder if certain things look good on others because of their skin. Because of the color.

Maybe it is because of the “neutral concept”. White is the foundational blank canvas after all. *HGTV* says that white is the best color to paint your walls. They say it is perfect to show off your style. White allows you to experiment and redecorate with contrasts and pops of color. With a blank canvas, you can pair it with anything.

That does sound perfect.

Maybe I am crazy for listening to home improvement magazines. Our bodies are not a house—are they?

In 2016, white Van shoes became the fashion piece of the year, 2018 became the year of the revival of Stan Smiths and Adidas Superstars, and 2019 had “Best white sneakers to buy” as a top search on Google. White has been the wardrobe staple for decades. In 1960, Converse Chuck Taylors were seen on everyone from athletes and everyday people alike. In 1969, Yoko Ono wore a pair of white Keds canvas sneakers in

her wedding to John Lennon. In 1987, white Keds returned on *Dirty Dancing's* character Baby.

Better Homes and Gardens magazine says that my perfect style house would include a Scandinavian design: clean, crisp, minimalist. This also includes lots and lots of neutrals—like white.

Maybe white really is more beautiful. It certainly gives you more options.

House Beautiful wrote an article on how white walls open up a small space and how some of the best bedrooms make use of a calming color palette. I really like navy. That'd be my choice. But hotel beds are usually always white, and I like how luxurious they seem. They're always so comfortable and clean.

Now, I want white bedsheets too.

I've been looking online for months at pretty beds. I really like a messy-styled, linen-clad bed because they look cozier. White bedsheets allow for transition and change. With white I could change my style as much as I like. Grey sheets seem like a nice balance between white and a little color. But I only really like light grey. It feels softer than white, less sterile. Less of a worry to keep clean. I like that.

Sometimes I wonder if those are even my ideas or planted there by someone else. And sometimes I wonder if they would look good on me. It's a weird thing really. Or maybe it's just a culture thing.

After all, tan is also a neutral and feels equally as foundational as white. At least, that's what I keep trying to tell myself.