



GEEK IS CHIC

He's a geek, she's a geek, we're all geeks.

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>> You've seen 'em. They might be the ones starting impromptu Lightsaber battles in *Sharper Image*. They might have tattooed their bodies with the Dark Mark. They might greet you with the sign of the Vulcans. You might be looking at me. Enter geeks.

All my life, I've considered myself one, but only recently has the world realized geek is chic. Before the Michael Ceras and Jesse Eisenbergs of the world became mainstream, we geeks were definitely not considered hip. I remember the early days when there was quite a bit of name calling, finger pointing and hanging out with my only real friend—an 11-year-old wizard named Harry Potter. And that was just middle school. Being a geek in high school isn't much different—except you find the other geeks and band together to avoid book checks and slushie facials.

Then comes college. All of a sudden, there are geeks from all walks of life. Music and theater geeks, ultimate Frisbee geeks, grammar geeks, even scrapbooking geeks. Basically, there's no limit to the geekdom. Sure, there are other archetypes roaming around campus—football players, hipsters, frat boys, sorority girls—but a lot of them are friends with geeks. A lot of them *are* geeks.

You might be wondering where they're coming from. After all,

high school geeks seemed like a small, quirky bunch. These new-found geeks are the same people you knew in high school—they've just finally owned up to what they geek out about.

Let me explain. You know that hot sorority girl in your economics class? She actually spends hours on end playing "Sonic the Hedgehog" on her outdated Sega Genesis and beams with pride when she reaches the Scrap Brain Zone. The star tennis player sitting next to you in class loves nothing more than a Saturday jam-packed with *WoW*. And don't forget your professors—you know, the one with the Lego collection? Or the one with the deep, '80s-inspired love for David Bowie in tight pants in the Muppet film "Labyrinth"? They're all geeks.

Maybe it's important to define "geek." Being a geek means being enthusiastic about something, many things or even everything. College is where you're liberated from geek repression—you can finally be yourself. This is why geeks got cool: Everyone wants to be accepted for who they are. So make it happen. Toss your cool hat in the trash, and adopt the gregarious geek mentality of being yourself.

It's time to join the revolution—and no one's judging if it's "Dance Dance Revolution." Go ahead. Get your geek on.