

Necks

In her book *I Feel Bad About My Neck*, director and screenwriter Nora Ephron wrote that “our faces are lies and our necks are the truth”—however unfortunate that may be. Below, the true neck-related stories that have stood the test of time (even if they’ve sagged a little). —KATE SULLIVAN

238: Number of intact pearls on the oldest known pearl necklace (believed to be from 350 B.C.), which was found in 1901 near what is now Iran.

2: Number of Henry VIII’s wives (out of six) that he ordered beheaded.

14th: Century Parmigianino painted a Madonna and Child popularly called *Madonna With the Long Neck*.

2,000,000: Estimated value in livres of the elaborate jewelry involved in 1785’s

\$1:

Price of the Youth-Molde chin strap, worn to stop neck sagging in the 1930s.

“Affair of the Necklace,” which helped ignite the French Revolution.

1820s: Decade Hannah Montague cut off the soiled collars of her blacksmith husband’s shirts to wash them, thus inventing the detachable collar.

1819: Year the first depiction of a vampire appeared, in John Polidori’s *The Vampyre*, a novella suspected of being plagiarized from an unpublished story by Polidori’s friend Lord Byron.

1931: Year Boris Karloff wore prosthetic bolts on his neck to play Frankenstein’s monster, a career-making role that *Dracula* star Bela Lugosi turned down.

\$70.6 million: Amount *Twilight* made during its opening weekend in 2008, nearly doubling the previous highest debut for a film by a female director.

30: Percentage smaller a female’s voice box is than a male’s; the female larynx is also located higher in the throat than a man’s, which is why women do not have a prominent Adam’s apple.

850: Number of color illustrations in Joel Feldman’s *Neck Lift*, a how-to guidebook for plastic surgeons that comes with an instructional DVD.

1950s: Decade beatniks adopted turtle-necks, eliminating the need for ties.

\$5.7 billion: Estimated fortune of ascot-wearing *Gilligan’s Island* castaway Thurston Howell III on *Forbes*’s list of the wealthiest fictional characters.

26: Years after Elvis Presley’s death that a DJ’s remix of his song “Rubberneckin’” debuted at number one on the Billboard singles chart.

\$95: Cost of a hour-long “Tech Neck” massage—combining hot compresses and acupressure to soothe aches caused by hunching over a computer—at the Dorit Baxter New York Day Spa.

5: Average number of years an apprentice geisha wears a kimono that hangs loosely in back to highlight the erogenous nape of her neck.

1999: Year designer John Galliano had his runway models wear Van Cleef & Arpels necklaces backward to call

26%

of allure.com readers are bothered by “horizontal lines” on their necks.

attention to the napes of their necks in a geisha-inspired fashion show.

5 to 7: Inches away from her neck that a woman should spray a bottle of perfume, according to Sophia Grojsman of International Flavors & Fragrances.

7: Number of vertebrae in a giraffe’s neck—the same as in a human’s.

11: Length in inches of a giraffe vertebra.

15: Average length in inches of a Padaung woman’s neck after it is stretched over time using coiled brass rings that push down the collarbone, compress the rib cage, and pull about four chest vertebrae into the neck.