

## **The Ties that Bind Us** by Luke O'Brien

To read this epic tale you must clear your mind and remove the noose around your neck. This is the story about the true history... of neckties.

My office was in a tall and bland looking building. I looked around my beige walls whilst typing on my uninteresting computer with a look on my face of pure and utter boredom. I had done the same routine over and over again, day in and day out. There had to be more to life than typing words all day long. Apparently there is an ancient ritual that counteracts boredom, dullness and predictability. But no one had had a midlife crisis in years. It's just a myth.

I had examined the necktie multiple times but I still got the same answer. It definitely came from the Jurassic period. After the diggers dug up a tie twenty kilometres under the ground it became my solemn duty as the archaeologist to find out how it got there. I mean was it just me or was a sixty five million year old necktie just plain weird?

Funnily enough that wasn't the strangest thing. I found pictures of all important times in history on my laptop. A man wearing a black suit and a tie stood in each picture. The name tag on his jacket had the words 'The Man,' printed on it. How could a man wearing a modern day suit appear with the dinosaurs? And how could this person appear in all of the hundreds of factual pictures? After hours of thinking my mind started to drift. I was wondering what the point of the of the necktie was. Apparently they were used to make humans look smart. A long strip of cloth wrapped around the neck! It might as well be a leash. I jumped fifty feet in the air after this seemingly unimportant thought. Maybe it was a leash. Maybe 'The Man' had put a leash around every humans neck. I looked at mine. It's funny, I didn't remember putting on a tie that morning. I decided to try taking it off. I slowly removed the tie from around my neck. As I did I found myself seeing my office at a new angle. It was so dull! Without the tie I wanted to jump out of a plane, repaint the walls red and live life to the fullest. Without a tie I was a new man. The ritual wasn't a myth.

I stormed into the closest and largest office building I could find. I ran past the workers and the many sad looking men and women who forgot to have a cup of coffee in the morning. I leaped over the many desks noticing that not one was different from the others. I climbed up onto a conveniently placed stage and yelled 'EVERYONE!' All the bored looking men and women looked up. 'I have discovered something that will blow your mind! We humans have been lured into a trap ever since the dawn of time. Back in cave man times we had to be inventive and try new things.' Everyone gave me a look of disgust after the words "new things" was said. 'I have reason to believe that an ancient being known as "The Man" has been making us boring and predictable. He has made us think that we want to be living in beige office spaces with a computer similar to everyone else's. While we type numbers "The Man" is earning money. He is the ultimate boss. He is your boss's boss, even the president's. He has made us do work ever since we developed a brain. And he's been doing it with these.' I lifted up my tie held tightly in my hand. 'Neckties have been with us since cave man times! I know it sounds weird but I have proof! Not only was this man wearing a tie but everyone else was. The cavemen, the romans, even the knights! Go on, look them up! This contraption made by 'The Man' has somehow made the brain unable to have new ideas. Take them off! Rise up!

The Man doesn't have to control us any more.' The men and women, to my relief, started removing their ties.

Two years later the world had become a better place. No one was worried about taxes and work. In fact (this may come as a shock) people started to do new things. They rented big, red, expensive and highly breakable cars and made strange sculptures out of their hair. All the world had a midlife crisis at the same time. Even the people who weren't middle age had one! This was a world with no worries and no strife. A world where money wasn't important and where no one worked for "The Man", but for themselves.