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ALTHOUGH NO ONE COULD ARGUE ABOUT THEIR PRODUCTIVITY,
CHIANG SOON REALIZED THAT HIS NEW CO-WORKERS LACKED
SOMETHING WHEN IT CAME TO SOCIALIZING DURING BREAKS.



MY TURN

■ Wayne Chan



The pillow rebellion

It's been a good run. Heck, it's been a great run.

For 22 blissful years, I've avoided the bane of many a married man's existence. I'm sure if you're a married man, you know exactly what I'm talking about.

I'm talking about decorative throw pillows on a bed.

You know the ones. They're decorative. They're thrown off the bed before you go to sleep. That's why they are called "throw" pillows. They serve no purpose except to exist.

Every other part of the bed serves a unique, functional purpose. The mattress, the box frame, the sheets — they all make sense. And of course you need pillows: *Regular* pillows are a cool, soft, support for your head.

For 22 years we've managed to survive without decorative throw pillows on our bed. Now we have them. *Please*, someone tell me what we're supposed to do with them.

In a perfectly passive-aggressive way, I've tried my best to convey my irritation with these useless interlopers that have invaded my bed.

Before I go to sleep, I quickly fling these pillows off the bed, where they sit scattered around the bedroom until morning. Even if I wanted to neatly place them somewhere else in the room, there's nowhere for them to go. We have no cabinets designated for "useless objects to be stored overnight."

So, the pillows lay on the floor, perfectly positioned for me to trip over them if and when I need to get up in the middle of the night.

In the morning, to continue with my passive-aggressive protest, I make the bed, putting everything in its proper place except for the throw

pillows, which remain on the floor.

For a couple of days now, my wife Maya has given me a stern look and said something like, "You didn't make the bed," which is actually code for, "These pillows are now part of the bed-making ritual. Get your act together and pick them up off the floor."

When I try the direct approach and express my displeasure over having these pillows in our lives now, particularly when they serve no real purpose, her response is, "They do serve a purpose. They look nice, like a painting."

Baloney.

I don't remember the last time I passed by one of our paintings and needed to take the painting off the wall, fling it across the room, and put it back up when passing by it again.

Even if one could argue that the only function these pillows really have is to provide decoration or as a way to impress, I just don't see it.

We're not the type to try and show off anyway, but even if we were, what's the likelihood we would invite friends over and say, "After we show you our pool and brand new car, how'd you guys like to check out the new decorative pillows sitting on the bed? Not interested? OK, your loss!"

The only purpose I've ever seen for decorative throw pillows on a bed is in a movie, where there's an Arabian prince lounging on a bed surrounded by beautiful women either feeding him individual grapes or fanning him with long palm leaves. Whenever I see that in a movie, yes, the bed has plenty of decorative throw pillows.

So, unless my wife is willing to feed me tortilla chips while I'm lounging about on the bed watching Sunday Night Football, I think these pillows have got to go.

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