

Gaga over Lawsuits

By Reg P. Wydeven
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My kids never cease to amaze me. The other day, we were watching the news and learned that Lady Gaga got “punished” for rude behavior at a New York Mets game by being moved to Jerry Seinfeld’s luxury box. My kids told me that they liked Lady Gaga. I was surprised that they even knew, let alone were fans of, the pop star known for her outrageous outfits and apparently, even more outrageous behavior.

The kids informed me that they didn’t necessarily love her outfits or her music, but they admired the fact that she does her own thing and doesn’t care what other people think of her. Ironically, while my kids like Lady Gaga for her individuality, many of her fans copy her style. One of her latest trends, however, might be dangerous.

In the music video for her hit single “Bad Romance,” Lady Gaga can be seen wearing unique contact lenses that were designed to enlarge the iris of her eyes. Much like her crazy hats, shoes, sunglasses and outfits, Lady Gaga’s fans have adopted the fad and are donning the purely cosmetic lenses. The problem is that the lenses can cause severe damage to their wearer’s eyesight, and accordingly, they are illegal in the United States.

Apparently the look started in South Korea and quickly spread throughout Asia. The lenses are now readily available on the Internet. Their popularity is attributed to the doe-eyed look they create, enhancing the cuteness of the wearer. The lenses can be obtained over-the-counter. Accordingly, you do not need a prescription to wear them nor are they monitored by optometrists or ophthalmologists.

Because the lenses can deprive the eye of oxygen, eye infections are common, which can lead to blindness. Other risks include corneal ulcers, scratches or abrasions in the corner of the eye. Like the colored contacts fad from a few years back, eye care professionals are hoping these iris-enlarging lenses also wink out. They recommend meeting with a professional to measure your eyes, test your vision, be given a prescription, and be taught how to care for contact lenses.

While Lady Gaga hasn’t gotten into trouble for wearing the illegal lenses, she’s no stranger to a courtroom. Earlier this summer, songwriter-producer Rob Fusari sued the pop star for not compensating him for essentially creating Lady Gaga. He is seeking \$30.5 million in damages.

Fusari’s lawsuit claims he discovered Stefani Germanotta, as she was known at the time, after she played some of her songs for him on her piano at his Parsippany, New Jersey studio in the spring of 2006. The suit further alleges that Fusari steered her from her rock sound to dance music, a genre where she has won two Grammys.

Fusari even asserts that he accidentally created her stage name after sending Germanotta a text message referencing Queen’s 1970s hit “Radio Ga Ga.” However, his cell phone’s spell check switched it to “Lady Ga Ga.” Germanotta purportedly loved it and adopted the moniker.

Working closely together on her music, Lady Gaga and Fusari became romantically involved. According to the suit, Germanotta and her father signed a contract with Fusari giving him a 20 percent share of her career. Soon after, their romance soured and Lady Gaga’s star rose.

Fusari claims he has only been paid just over \$600,000, so he’s still owed \$30 million. “Bad Romance” indeed.