

## Oscitancy

It was most bizarre!

In the world's long history of peculiar phenomenon; suddenly a most singular and most inexplicable anomaly swept the globe. It was the absence of one of the most natural of acts, and the fact that that absence had somehow been overlooked by the masses.

At the center of the beguiling quandary to follow stood Dr. Emily Sanderson.

One day in October was a most typical day in her quiet neighborhood—the birds were singing, the sun was shining, and the normalcy of life remained unquestioned. But for Emily, that day would unravel the fabric of that normalcy.

Dr. Sanderson was a renowned neuroscientist. Amidst her most rigorous schedule and relentless pursuit of understanding the intricacies of the brain, she happened to be the one who stumbled upon the observation that would upend the very norms of human behavior. The sudden realization pierced through her consciousness like a comet streaking through the sky: not a single individual on this planet had yawned for more than a month. And no one had noticed!

Initially dismissing it as an error in her most meticulous record-keeping, she revisited her findings time and again, hoping for a rational explanation to absolve her of this most unexpected observation. But the data remained resolute. The yawn, that most trivial and ubiquitous of reflexes, had vanished from the repertoire of human and animal behavior, seemingly overnight. How could that have gone unnoticed?

Emily oscillated between denial and a most unsettling acceptance, but eventually the undeniable truth cemented itself in her consciousness.

Any of her attempts to force a yawn proved as futile as grasping at the wind. The act, which previously had been as reflexive as the beating of one's heart, now eluded her and, subsequently, eluded the entire population as the news spread to a world so far unaware of its yawnless state.

Her discovery catapulted her into the spotlight, setting in motion a global scientific inquiry that ignited the curiosity of the most astute minds across the scientific spectrum. Scientists convened, theories blossomed—there were conjectures of a yawn-suppressing pathogen, a yawn-preventing ultrasonic wave, and even whispers of a top-secret governmental experiment gone awry. Yet, each hypothesis was swiftly cast aside. What remained was the uncompromising reality that no yawn could be summoned, regardless of method or intent.

People worldwide made their own attempts to produce the elusive yawn. Some denied themselves sleep, believing that might trigger the involuntary reflex. Others resorted to a

cerebral tug-of-war, attempting to think themselves into the familiar sensation of a yawn.

Videos and images of people yawning inundated social media—a collective effort to prompt the dormant reflex of an entire populace. Yet, the response was universally uniform—an absence, an echoing silence, where the collective yawn should have been.

The world stood stupefied, ensnared in a riddle that defied the realm of human comprehension.

As days stretched into months, and months into years, the absence of yawns metamorphosed from a most curious anomaly into a most humbling testament to the enigmatic prowess of the human mind.

Over time, the enigma faded from everyday life, eventually slipping into obscurity—becoming little more than a whispered memory, a myth woven into the nostalgic tales of the old, reminiscing about the good old days.



**Allen, TX, October 5, 2024**

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