

THE POWER OF RED

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It's London Fashion Week. The world's **fashionistas** are blogging, and instagramming about this season's looks and trends to a fashion-hungry audience. The of the moment is red – bright, bold and brave. In the language of clothing, red makes a statement. For some people, it stands for power; for others, red is meaning danger. But where do these come from – and is the power of the colour red changing?

Nowadays, when it comes to colour, most of us wear what we choose. But things were very different in 15th century England, when only the rich and powerful – and their servants – were to wear the colour red – and the English King Henry VIII passed four separate laws to make sure everyone the rules.

But why the colour red? Professor Lisa Jardine of University College, London, says that the answer is all about money, power and **status**. The that turned cloth red in Henry's day were expensive – so only rich people could afford to wear red clothing. Henry's laws were a way of controlling who was able to show their, power and social status.

But red had other, more negative meanings – especially for women. The English phrase '..... woman' describes a woman who has lots of sexual partners – so perhaps it doesn't come as a surprise to that Queen Elizabeth I (also known as 'The Virgin Queen') often wore white as a symbol of her **purity** – and Queen Elizabeth II wore a white dress for her

But times are changing, and these days, in western fashion at least, women can wear their favourite shade of red without Even the Queen is wearing red on public occasions, and red is one of the Duchess of Cambridge's favourite colours.

So, fashionable women definitely red this September. According to Vogue Magazine, "these reds are healthy, warm and, proving fashion's heart beats strong and sure." There are even some red wedding dresses on show – although I'm not expecting to see them in my local church any time soon...

I'm no scarlet woman, but I think about buying a pair of red for myself this winter. After all, if Princess Kate is wearing red this season – that's good for me!

Source> This article is based on an original [BBC Magazine article](#).