My Adventures in Manscaping

To groom or not to groom? That is the question. For the uninitiated, manscaping, in one sense of the word, is the grooming of a man by means of shaving or waxing. It’s a fine art form exclusive to men—like landscaping for the body. I must be upfront though; if you came tonight expecting to hear all of the sordid details of that aspect of my life, you’ll have to wait until my tell-all book comes out some fifty years from now. However, if you truly want more info on this topic, watch the documentary Mansome; it explains everything you’d ever want to know and then some.

What I can divulge to you tonight is how I use this word in a more G-rated fashion in addition to its more taboo homonym. I promise you—it doesn’t require ominous shaving kits or painful waxing procedures. Better yet, unless you want it to, my brand of manscaping comes at no cost to you. Best of all, it makes other people, men and women, just as happy! To me, manscaping is no more complicated than what its root words imply; it means changing the landscape of man. Mankind that is.

When you take a break from furiously trying to finish that problem set you promised your TF you’d have in her box by 9 am this morning, just look at the headlines from your favorite news website. I’ve found that the quickest place to look is C-SPAN. It’s as if someone somewhere let loose a box full of real-life Scumbag Steve memes on the world. Just today, INSERT QUOTE FROM THAT DAY’S NEWS. The problems begin on an individual level though; we all do it. I tell that friend “I’ll call you tonight” and don’t. You yell at the driver in the car that just cut you off without knowing the woman inside is about to give birth. We all laugh at that tourist who just fell on the ice because they didn’t wear the proper footwear. And although mankind is the source of all problems, the solution begins
with us too; if we don’t do something, nothing will ever change. Plus, it’s as easy as getting waxed; you simply strip away all those bad habits we let ourselves get into.

Just like the more taboo version, my conception of manscaping isn’t just getting rid of the bad; it’s also about making men look good. Despite the fact that we may all have different ideas about what that means, doing good for another person purely out of good will doesn’t hurt anyone. Is it really so hard to stop and help that frenetic underclassman gather his books after tripping down the steps of Widener? Nope. How much of your precious time would it take offer to shoot a photo with a tourist? Not much. And yet, most of us don’t do these kinds of things. I come in contact with other human lives everyday and I strive to leave them in a better condition than when I first met them. It means asking that girl at the end of the hallway in DeWolfe if she’s okay during Reading Period and paying it forward when someone before me pays for my venti Eggnog Latte at Starbucks. No, making that initial first step isn’t the easiest thing in the world but after a while, it becomes second nature. Much like waxing or shaving. If everyone did at least one small kindness for someone else each day, think of how much better looking our manscape would be.

Without a doubt, the answer is to groom and as promised, the alternative manscaping involves no literal shaving or waxing, no monetary costs, and men and women alike benefit. Today’s manscape needs to be metaphorically plucked, trimmed, shaved, and waxed more than The 40 Year-Old Virgin. Each one of us can do things everyday to make mankind seem less like a bunch of Scumbag Steve’s and more like Good Guy Greg’s. Like I said, it’s simple- You stop doing those things that you know you shouldn’t be doing and start doing good for others. What could be so bad about that? We should be people that restore others faith in humanity and it’s a trend that can start right here in the very dining hall.
Manscaping is how we can make our House and the world at large a better place to live in for all of humanity.