

When It Comes To Cars Is It Better To Sleep Around?



I watch all the sentimental stories about people who've owned their same car for 30 years and wonder, how the hell? I mean I love the image of opening my garage decades from now and seeing my same car, sitting there a little dusty and full of nostalgia. Problem is one car is not enough and I don't have the funds or the space for more than one car at a time.

I sound like the leader of a farm in Utah, but I don't understand how people can stay with just one car for so long. Most of the people I see in the videos seem like normal people with normal incomes and two-car garages, so how'd they fight the itch for something different? How have these people looked over at stoplights, swiped through magazines, perused Craigslist and avoided the temptation? We treat them like gear head gods but I'm not sure they're not just a little weird.

Currently a pretty red 2003 Z4 is resting in the parking spot next to my wife's daily driver. I'm particularly attached to this roadster because I purchased it from my father after 13 years of it being his dream car. Unlike most people, the Z4 was love at first site for him and me. I have memories of the day we drove the car off the lot together and of being "allowed" to wash the precious Z. He never drove the car really, just looked at it. One day he called me up and gave me the honor of the opportunity to buy it. Now there it sits with an odometer that hasn't really been used taking up a valuable parking space.

Whether you like a Z4 or not, this is the kind of nostalgia car guys dream of right? It's the stuff car companies make commercials out of and Wayne Carini wiggles his moustache at. The only thing that ruins this sweet story is my resentment for the little roadster. I love that car and I love driving it, but my emotional attachment is the only thing standing between me and an old Bronco, an RX-7, or countless other driving experiences.

I've had the car I always wanted for less than a year now and I've almost sold it twice, once for Alton Brown's old '72 2002 and once for a Wagoneer. What's wrong with me? I'm too sentimental to sell the car but too much of a car addict not to wonder what it feels like to have another car parked in the Z4's spot.

Look one day, like most of us, I dream of having a barn or a big garage to keep my red old lady in amongst other lovelies. In the mean time I'm youngish and impatient. We all know a lot of emotion comes with being a car enthusiast, but does it get in the way of us enjoying other experiences? Is it really praiseworthy to stay with one car for the long haul or is it better to leave emotions out of it and hop from seat to seat?