

## Turn on the charm and rediscover your inner lady

Being sprawled, then crawling on hands and knees while groaning in pain, in the beautiful village that asks all those that enter to 'please dance' would not qualify. Being scooped up and led to a safe haven would, undoubtedly, qualify my saviour. Even if he was still in his dressing gown – not all knights wear shining armour.

They say "every cloud has a silver lining" – my cloud is spending the last six hours in A&E, the silver lining is in the form of creativity. As I tap with the few fingers I have left to tap with – both hands are encased in plaster cast – I will be a trooper and continue where I left off, slower in the keyboard department but perhaps more fluid in the thought department.

My chosen topic for this column was to be decorum. My question was, and still is: are you a lady? Or for that matter a gentleman (although this one isn't about you)? Could you be a Queen for the day? Could you comfortably sit and observe your subjects from your throne? Do you have what it takes? In reality before you reached the dizzy high accolades of Her Majesty, you would have spent a decade or two being knocked into shape. Think Kate Middleton. I want you to take a long hard look at yourself – what do you see? How do you conduct yourself day to day?

This is a tricky one. On one hand it is quite the thing to be independent and tough, but a sea change cometh. A recent survey found that a staggering 70 per cent of females like a man that was handy with a toolkit. This would make me believe that secretly being pandered to is (even if we protest) a rather attractive proposition. Using a hammer is not ladylike. So becoming a Queen even just for a day could be easier than it may sound.

I have never found it difficult to 'delegate' or stand back and no, it isn't the same as being a Bossy Boots. My



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husband opens doors for me which is just as well he always walks on the outside of the pavement to protect me, sometimes doing a little dance along the pavement while he puts me in line. Sadly, though, he can't be there for every moment, but gallantly sees to my every need, and a lady never belittles her husband.

To be an upstanding lady may mean you need to enrol in a refresher course. The harsh facts of the matter are that you might not be quite the lady you think you are.

Firstly, a lady never gets cross.

She simply smiles and moves on. A lady never checks her mobile telephone in company. This would leave most of the population sitting very firmly on their bottoms. A lady does not gush. She is not a drama queen. She always puts others first. A lady is demure. As my husband would say, 'jeeppers'; this is selfless stuff.

Ah, you say somewhat confrontationally, I may not wish to be a lady. I quite understand, but if you follow just a few of the 'rules' you may find yourself with a unique selling point, a USP.

It is never too late to be rebranded. People have short memories, so you could start from today. It is said that in recession all manner of things become heated.

A fight or flight mentality erupts. This masculine take needs balance and that balance is achieved in the only way possible – charm. It is disarming. Try it. Next time someone in your company forgets themselves just smile demurely, with newfound grace.

Elegance and poise. A female trait – unless you happen to hit ice while cycling in Castle Carrock.

It is May Day and you My Lady may well be ready to be that May Day Queen after all. Please take your throne and let the season commence. 