MAN, I FEEL LIKE A WOMAN!

BY CARRIE KLAPPER
Michael, listen, as your agent, I'm telling you, you're not gonna get another acting job unless you...become another person!

Huh...become someone else...that's not a bad idea...

Not just a role! The role! It's a 19th C. woman and I'm perfect for it! And it pays a ton and I'm broke! I just have to make a few changes...

Michael this is crazy! Become a woman just for a role?

Um...just a few changes?

Yep...just a few! And I'm gonna make those changes on that new reality TV show...ya know the one where they teach women to be just like real 19th C. ladies!

Meanwhile, another family is having a disagreement...

Mother you can't make me go! Papa stop her!

Oh yes Lizzy! You are going to learn to be a lady and you are going to get married!

But mother I am a lady! A lady is someone who thinks for herself and marries for love, not money!

Ha! and that is exactly why you don't have a husband! We must get you on that show immediately!

Later, at the reality TV set...I am the judge, Mrs. Pennyworth. You will now be paired with another participant...Dorothy Michaels and Elizabeth Bennet. Oh my word is that Dorothy? What is there a drag show in town or something?
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I am the judge, Mrs. Pennyworth. You will now be paired with another participant...Dorothy Michaels and Elizabeth Bennett.

Oh my word is that Dorothy? What is there a drag show in town or something?
Once Dorothy and Lizzy have settled in, they head to the dining room for tea.

So why are you here Miss Bennett? You seem awfully ladylike to me.

My mother doesn't think so. She's the reason I'm here.

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She thinks I need to learn what it takes to be a lady. But it all seems like pointless ritual to me.

The constant putting on of make up and fancy clothes...of keeping your opinions to yourself and marrying for money!

In my opinion, it's all ridiculous ritual to conform to society's idea of what a "lady" is!

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Down in the dining hall...

Tonight, we will learn how to drink tea like ladies!

No slurping girls! You won't catch a husband making noises like that!

See what I mean Dorothy? This practice of regulating how and what we eat and drink is absurd! What's the point of all this?

Well I suppose it's to help you to find a husband! Lord knows I could use a rich husband at this point!

Dorothy, that's excellent! And on your first try!

Elizabeth Bennet: no slurping your tea!

Ugh I will never get the hang of this!
Once Dorothy and Lizzy have settled in, they head to the dining room for tea.

So why are you here, Miss Bennett? You seem awfully ladylike to me.

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As the weeks wore on, so did the lessons.

They learned to put on makeup...

Excellent job Dorothy!

They learned to do their hair...

Beautiful Dorothy! Brava!

They learned to dance...

Lovely Dorothy! Just lovely!

Later that day, Elizabeth takes time to talk to the camera in confessional...

I just can’t get the hang of this! I’m just not cut out to be this kind of lady!

But Dorothy... she’s amazing! She truly is a lady! and not just what they say a lady is! she’s smart, funny and independent too!

I...well, I think I’m falling in love with her! Oh my! Falling in love with a woman! a poor woman! what would my mother say?

Later on, in a very dramatic scene in the judges room...

Elizabeth you could learn a thing or two from your partner Dorothy!

No! I cannot let you persecute dear, sweet Elizabeth any longer!

Elizabeth make eye contact with your partner!
LATER THAT DAY, ELIZABETH TAKES TIME TO TALK TO THE CAMERA IN CONFESSIONAL...

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ELIZABETH YOU COULD LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM YOUR PARTNER DOROTHY!

NO! I CANNOT LET YOU PERSECUTE DEAR, SWEET ELIZABETH ANY LONGER!
I have some shocking news for ya'll... I'm not actually a woman... I'm a man! And my name is Michael... not Dorothy!

But how is this possible?! You were so good at everything we asked of you! You were a perfect lady! My world has been completely turned upside down!

That's because everything you asked of us was ridiculous! It didn't help us to become "ladies"... it helped us to become subserviant nit wits!

This show is only meant to keep women in their place! This ritual is ridiculous and should in no way be allowed to continue!

Dorothy... I mean Michael... is right! I refuse to continue to be on this show! And I will make sure everyone knows how absurd this is!

Oh Lizzy, I love you! Will you marry me?

Michael, I love you too! Of course I'll marry you! Mama will be so happy! And when we have daughters, they'll be able to grow up in a world without this ritual of becoming a lady! All because of you!

Oh wait Michael! Does this mean you were lying about being poor too? Was that just a part of your character? Oh well that's actually a funny story... um no. I'm actually poor.
I have some shocking news for ya'll...i'm not actually a woman...i'm a man! and my name is michael...not dorothy!

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