

## DAWN O'PORTER



# “Feminism needs to be honest”

**S**o I'm worried that as women become more determined to support each other in the name of feminism, though this is a wonderful thing, they are also prone to being insincere. Let me highlight my point with some examples.

When Lena Dunham turned up to the Emmy Awards earlier this year dressed like a trifle, it wasn't her finest fashion moment. Most people agreed, but some

tried to pass it off as a 'feminist statement', just because it was Lena. That the 'message' behind the outfit was to 'wear what you like and screw what anyone else thinks'. But that's not right. The simple fact is: Lena chose a dress that didn't photograph well.

That's OK, she's allowed to get it wrong sometimes — we all do. She proved her flair for fashion two days later when she rocked up to a Miu Miu party looking

totally epic, as she often does. Just because she is an outspoken feminist, doesn't mean she isn't occasionally guilty of a bad outfit. To turn that into a feminist statement is disingenuous.

If that really is the case, the same rule should be applied to any woman who gets it wrong on a red carpet, but of course it isn't. There is no 'statement' applied to the celebrities who don't actively campaign for women's rights. *They* just fuck up. Justifying Lena's bad choice in this way doesn't make non-supporters stop and listen, it makes them laugh.

Be honest.

Not long ago, there was a viral article being flung around Twitter and Facebook showing five covers of *GQ* magazine. On four of the covers were male stars, all dressed in black suits (fully clothed, in other words), and then there was the Lana Del Rey cover, upon which she was completely naked. Above the ►

## HEY, LADY

Be prepared to laugh at this lady. Julie Klausner is so brilliant, I get a stitch just hearing her name. A writer, performer and host of the podcast *How Was Your Week?*, she's HOT in America, but I discovered her when I stumbled across her *Cat Whisperer* videos. Comedy and cats... I'm in! [julieklausner.com](http://julieklausner.com)



◀ images was the caption: “THIS IS WHY WE NEED FEMINISM.”

I stared at this as people hounded me to retweet it, but it felt hollow to me. I didn't agree that the article was a good example of female oppression. I happen to know Lana orchestrated that shoot, suggested it, and happily posed for it, as she has every right to do. There was no manipulation, no sleazy producer telling her to spread her legs a little further. Sure, it was unhelpful of her to do it. It doesn't help anyone that women continue to pose naked for lads' mags when the rest of us are trying to explain to men that we are not just objects of sexual desire. But how can we blame the patriarchy for Lana's decision? She wanted to be a fantasy. We need to pick our arguments better than this, or our point gets weakened.

Be honest.

Stepping out of the world of celebrity, the pressure to be the ever-defiant feminist is felt by us all. My single friends often offer me defensive lines about their relationship status. Stuff like, “I'm a feminist, you know? I'm independent. I don't want some guy coming in and sharing my space, my time, my life.” Usually, a couple of glasses of wine later, they admit that is exactly what they

## I'm LOVING

OK, this is actually happening. I'm about to recommend the most unstylish item of clothing ever. Compression stockings. Never fly without them. Here are my feet after a flight a few months ago when I only wore one. Result – one normal ankle and one big fat swollen ankle, plus serious ankle ache!

They will literally transform your experience of a long-haul flight. Just make sure you have two!



## Auntie Twit

Dawn solves your problems (well, sort of) in 140 characters



**@hotpatooties** feel like I've tried everything for my boss to notice me but I never get any opportunities, feel invisible.

Any suggestions?

**@emyhardy7** I had this once. Drove me NUTS.

So I knocked on his door, went in & told him where I wanted to be at work. He listened. Make the opportunity yourself.

**@hotpatooties** do I buy a house and get on property ladder or travel? Craving own space = house. Not settled in chosen career = travel. Help?

**@jessicaward03** The sensible answer is buy a house. But I'm not sensible. Travel, explore, experience life. Settle when you are done.

**@hotpatooties** how to get Betty Draper hair? It's impossible!

**@tokengraduate** One word... Elnett. Oh, and a fine-toothed comb for backcombing. Welcome to my life.

**@hotpatooties** “good friends” who try to turn your best friends against u, then try to play the victim when called out on their deviousness!

**@emmatorpey** Um... first off admit that they are not good friends. Then, dump them.

## Save the DATE

Tuesday December 2 is #GivingTuesday – the global day of giving something back, whether that's volunteering your time, donating your money or simply doing a generous act for someone in need. Find out more and share your good deeds with us at [glamourmagazine.co.uk/givingtuesday](http://glamourmagazine.co.uk/givingtuesday). Check it out. Go on, make someone's day! [givingtuesday.org](http://givingtuesday.org)



want – because to be independent doesn't mean to be alone. Of course, we don't want to live in a society full of real-life Bridget Joneses, who can't appreciate any of their personal achievements unless there is a man present. But to want to be loved and desired – and to admit it – doesn't make you any less of a feminist.

Be honest.

When striving for the equality that *will* one day be a reality, we have to be genuine. Saying bad outfits are deliberate when they are not, never admitting that women are sometimes the problem, or that we are vulnerable as well as mighty, won't win the war. For the sake of those who don't yet understand what feminism is trying to achieve, we have to choose the right battles to fight. ☺

What do you reckon? Tweet me @hotpatooties #GlamourMagUK

*Love Dawn*