

# Genderfluid: Get with the times, mother...

## GENDERFLUID

J-Johnny? Is that really you?  
Oh my God, what on earth did that awful woman do to you?

Calm down, Ma. She only did what I asked her to. I'm attending tonight's social as a woman, see?

No I don't see. Why on earth would you want to do something like that?

Get with the times, mother... I'm genderfluid, so why not?

I see. So it's a costume party, is it? People come as ballerinas or football players or what have you. So what are you supposed to be? Some sort of call girl? A high-class escort?

Thanks a bunch. It's not a costume party, okay? Just a regular dance.

But... how will people know you're wearing a costume? They'll think you're a real woman!

That's the idea, Ma...

Until I take this dress off, I am a real woman, and I expect to be treated like one. My name, until further notice, is Bethany Ann Cavanagh.

Bethany? Oh, my goodness... Do I have this right? You're actually going to be a young lady at this dance? Isn't that a bit over the top? Let me see here...

Uh, what's with the iPad? What're you looking up?

The definition of genderfluid. Hmm. Not exclusively masculine or feminine, it says. But you look completely and utterly feminine. Do you see the difficulty here?

Don't go all lawyer on me, Ma. It covers switching between the genders as well.

Does it now? All right. But does it say anything about fooling some poor young man who thinks he might get lucky tonight?

Like, welcome to the 21st century, Ma. I'm totally up front about what services I provide. Guys expect that. It's all part of being fluid. For all I know, the dude I hook up with might really be a girl in male drag. Either way---I'm up for it.

A mother can only hope, I suppose. Might be the only way I ever get grandchildren, even if my son does wind up being their mother.

Amanda Hawkins