



Lipstick & Lace

**More
Girlstuff
inside!**

***Super Shandi &
Lt. Sabrina!***

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Presidentially Speaking

Well, I hate to say it, but winter is finally upon us, and looks like it's here to stay! Yet that's not a bad thing. It gives us the chance to do what every other girl does during a change in seasons, which bring with it a change in fashions! Go Shopping!

Just like there is a need for different styles of clothing for the different seasons, lighter clothing for summer and heavier for winter, there are different styles of clothing for our different moods.

We are fortunate to have many more opportunities open to us when it comes to expressing those moods through the fashions we choose.

You know how it is, guys pick up yesterday's plaid shirt and jeans and they're good to go!

Yet when it comes to "Girl Time" we all know it takes three days to pick out an outfit, and we often change that decision at the last moment! (Oh the stresses of being a GIRL!).

Many of us can reflect on those precious times growing up with the strong desire to express our feminine sides, doing so by "Dressing Up" whenever we had the chance.

Sometimes "borrowing" our mother's things, the long flowing gown and satin pumps, our sister's mini skirts and heels, or the pretty things we bought ourselves with the excuse it was a "present" for our sister.

Spending time alone in front of the

mirror letting wonderful feelings flow from within us. Expressing whatever mood we were in that day, even if it was only for a short while.



The answer to that is simple. Wear whatever you are in the mood for and what makes you happy.

Now that the colder weather is upon us, and our weekends and evenings aren't going to be spent outdoors, take advantage of all that Masquerade has to offer.

Make the most of your girl time this winter and keep an eye on our events calendar

So when you are in the mood for an evening out wearing your favorite dress...Chat with the girls, make plans and take advantage of the special "Sisterhood" we have at Masquerade.

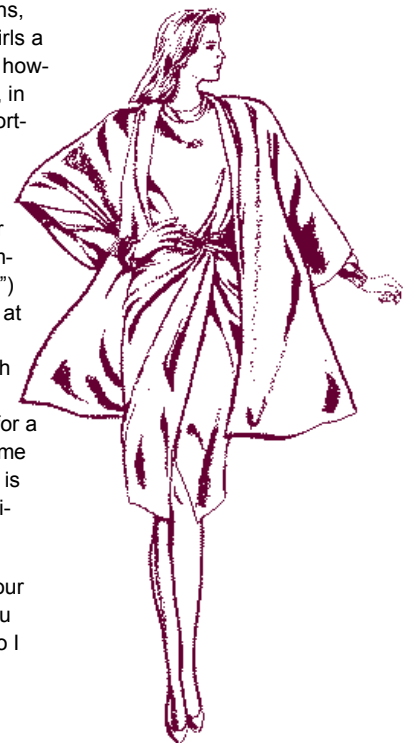
And most important of all, have fun being GIRLS!

Sabrina

Just like the changing seasons, Masquerade has given our girls a place to express themselves however their mood strikes them, in an accepting, safe and comfortable atmosphere.

From wearing your pretty sun dresses in July, to longer skirts and sweaters in December. (Did I say "longer skirts?") From flowing evening gowns at a formal evening event, to wearing the sexiest heels with your mini skirt and cute little top to dance the night away for a "Girls Night Out", spending time with the Girls of Masquerade is sure to be a rewarding experience.

If you are thinking of joining our group and what is holding you back is the worry ... "What do I wear, what do I wear?"



**Did I say
"longer
skirts?"**

Shandi's Corner

Last issue I was happy to share a little about how I went shopping, for of all things my Halloween costume!

For many of us Halloween represents a time for us to experiment with how others will accept us dressed as a girl. Since I already know that, I have over the last few years done "girl costumes". Not just me as a girl in a dress, but as a girl in a girl's costume. It has gone over very well at every event I went to, and since I love Halloween that's quite a few!

Now last issue I mentioned that they were out of it in my size so I had to order it and go back. I waited and waited calling several times to see if it had come in and was disappointed when it wasn't. I even left my name again because one of the clerks could not find my name on the list!!!! Sadly it did not arrive before the Masquerade meeting as I had hoped, but a friend of ours happily gave me one that she bought at a garage sale. I altered it a bit and wore it to the meeting.

But it was important for me to get the one I wanted, and to be dressed when I bought it. I called again and was happy to hear it was in. But I had to pick it up within 24 hours or it would be sold to someone else! So I threw on my new jeans, and some makeup and zoomed to the store with my sweetie! I even tried it on in the change room to make sure it fit. We spent some time looking

around for ideas for Charm and found some great ideas.

The next day I was surprised when they had called because they had run out of the costumes,



From Mild Mannered Shopper to...Supergirl!



not realizing I already had picked mine up. That's because I had left my name the second time. They invited me to come in and try to find something else suit-

able.

I guess my reasons for sharing this are many. Firstly because it was so cool to go shopping for such a cherished item as a girl. Secondly to show that it can be done. So many of us are so nervous about getting our girl stuff even at Halloween and we need to see that it can be done, especially at this time of year, with no consequences, except getting what you want. Thirdly that friends are special.

Because I had shared my "secret" with our friend she was happy to give me something to help me out. Had she not known, she could not have shared it. I of course as a friend returned the favour by helping her out with a favour.

Even interacting with the sales people in person and over the phone was a pleasant experience.

So by denying yourself you are missing out on many things that life has to offer. Stick to it, get what you want out of life to make yourself happy. It's a truly "super" feeling!

Luv Shandi

Be true to yourself... you're like no one else!

Back to the Future!

After seeing the old Raisin Bran cereal commercial from the 80's being used again recently on television, I began reminiscing back on several things and how much I miss them. Lots of things such as television sitcoms (Married with Children..., Night Court, Three's Company), sports (the Jets and Dale Hawerchuck, the dominant Oilers, wrestling stars like Rowdy Roddy Piper), toys (Transformers), cartoons (Bugs Bunny, Mighty Mouse, The Jetsons), music (80's hair bands, Madonna, The Bangles), and my closeted days of cross-dressing.

I so miss the days of my closeted cross-dressing and wish I could get back some of those sensations from my early experiences. Back in those days, I thought that it would be great to be relieved from some of those struggles and stressed out situations. Why on the world would I want to go through those again?

I miss the days when I first acted on my curiosity on wearing pantyhose. Finding the answers of why women wear pantyhose. The discovery of the sensation of the pantyhose

on my legs and feet, the silky smooth feeling when touched by the hands, and how they help display the legs no matter how light or dark the shade.

I miss the first time I tried on women shoes.

Rooting through the closet, trying on my mother's shoes ranging from ankle boots, high heel pumps, strappy sandals, cowboy boots, slippers and runners. Each with a different sensation and displaying of the feet or legs. Then taking that first wobbly step and wondering how the hell women walk in heels.

Examining the outfits my mother, sister, roommate or girlfriend were wearing and wondering how the outfits would look on me. Going through their closets and trying on their wardrobes whenever possible. I so miss the rush I got from the chance of getting caught in their rooms or

The great sensation of smooth legs for the first time. The weird feeling when wearing jeans on those freshly shaved thighs. The debating on whether to shave the rest of the body. The hours spent on the clean up of the hair in the shower stall.

The hours spent in front of the mirror trying on make up. Not to mention the hours on end reading up on how and where to apply the make up via the internet.

The huge sigh of relief I got when my roommate didn't notice my recklessness of hiding the stash of cross-dressing stuff. Not to mention the challenge of finding a hiding spot for the stash and the rushing of taking off the clothing when someone came home unexpectedly.

Ohhhhhh I so wish I could bring back some of those feelings which elude me today as I have grown.

However, there are some things I definitely do not wish to bring back. The humiliation of finding out about bad purchases, the embarrassing feeling when you've been caught or someone finding your stash, not to mention the hours spent wasted on the internet chat rooms trying to express your feminine personality, and finding the anti-social behaviour there.

I'm glad I am where I am today. With so many good memories to outweigh the bad!

Chantal



No going back for me!

in their clothing.

The pretending to be disturbed upon being feminized by my girlfriend for a Halloween party. Looking in the mirror for the first time with make up and the whole girly look going on. Admiring my total change of appearance.

Models Wanted!

The December 2nd B&B will feature a fashion show by Lady Godiva Boutique! It will showcase the many styles and options available at Lady Godiva's, and the girls of Masquerade have been asked to be some of the models for the event!

If you are interested in being a model please contact Charlene at 452-1100 during business hours to arrange for fittings. The fittings will take place after business hours at the store.

You must be able to commit to the evening of the show, and complete your fittings before Friday November 24th.

Upcoming Events!!

Hey Girls! You don't want to miss out on these!!

Masquerade "Kinky Boots Night", Saturday, November 18th, 2006

An evening at the movies at Shandi's. We will be watching the comedy "Kinky Boots" and everyone is encouraged to wear theirs! BYOB and munchies! Showtime is 9:00, Doors open at 8!

Saturday December 2, 2006 –B&B featuring a fashion Show by Lady Godiva Boutique!!

The girls of Masquerade have been asked to be some of the models for the event! If you are interested in being a model please contact Charlene at 452-1100 during business hours to arrange for fittings. The fittings will take place after business hours at the store. You must be able to commit to the evening of the show, and complete your fittings before Friday November 24th. Masquerade Members have been attending the Black and Blue Ball for many years, because of the acceptance we have found there. For many girls it is one of the first places they can go outside their homes and Masquerade meetings. Although many people consider crossdressing a "fetish" the girls of Masquerade do not consider ourselves a "fetish club" and we wish that to be clearly understood by all who read our website and newsletter."

Masquerade "Bring In The Winter Season" Glamour/Formal Dinner Party, Saturday, December 9, 2006

Chantal is planning a "Bring In The Winter Season" Glamour/Formal Dinner Party giving everyone an opportunity to have a evening they can wear their favorite formal gown! Chantal will be discussing the event at the November meeting, details will be posted on the website!

Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Meetings!!

Tuesday December 12, 2006 - Meeting starts at 7:30 pm, Program at 8:00 pm . Dressing theme - "Christmas Outfits" . A "Special Guest" is planned for the evening.

Make-up/Dressing tip of the month - Hiding your Adam's apple!

Membership attendance draw -Gift Certificate for Lady Godiva Boutique - "Mary Money"

Magazine Swap - Bring your old "Girl stuff" magazines to swap with other girls!

Tuesday January 9, 2006 - Meeting starts at 7:30, Program at 8:00 PM Theme is "The '80's!!". Big hair and funky clothes!

Programming: TBA!

Make-up/Dressing tip of the month –TBA!

Tuesday February 13, 2007 this meeting marks our 10th Anniversary! Get ready for club elections this month and lots of celebration and fun throughout the rest of the year!



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Check us out at www.Avon.ca

Catalogues for the new campaign will be available at the November meeting, from the newest sales rep, our very own Mariah!!

If Interested in buying or selling the Avon products please contact her via email at avongirl@masquerade.ca !



My Date With The Phantom!

One beautiful day in May I had received two tickets to go see the Phantom of the Opera. I was very surprised and happy that Angela asked me to dress-up for the show. Thus began our summer countdown to the Phantom. The tickets were for late September so we had time to make plans for that evening. This was an event for the both of us, Angela and myself.



Me posing with the Phantom poster.

headed off to the restaurant.

In preparation for our day I visited several restaurants in the downtown area to find a romantic setting. I had decided on the Royal Crown Restaurant. Our server was very pleasant and profes-



Angela in The Royal Crown

sional, I truly believed she enjoyed serving us ladies. We were enjoying the breathtaking view as well as our meal. We even had a little time for a stroll through the Hotel Fort Garry before we left for the show.

to be out there to see the show. All the girls have given me encouragement and information to be more feminine. That song meant more to me because of the club. I love Masquerade.

The show ended with a standing ovation. I almost felt like taking a bow.

Thanks for reading!

Linda



Us with Cristina our makeup artist.

We arrived at the Concert Hall anxious to see the show. Some people had dressed up formally. Then, some others were more casual. I did notice a few looks at us as we found our seats. I paid no attention to them, I just enjoyed looking great. The show was fantastic. I loved the effects and the singing. If you have seen the Phantom, then you will understand that "great

and awesome" cannot describe the show. At intermission nature called and I needed to answer. Standing in line with the other ladies to use the facilities, made me feel more lady-like.

and awesome" cannot describe the show. At intermission nature called and I needed to answer. Standing in line with the other ladies to use the facilities, made me feel more lady-like.

On the day of the Phantom, Angela and I went to get our make-up done. We went to see Cristina Mazzei at the Urban Star Hair Studio. She was great and did great work. She made us look extra special for the Phantom. I love all the movie star make-up hints she had. With our new wonderful looks we

Act two brought along my favourite song in the show. "Masquerade" was the title of the song and I felt proud that Masquerade girls helped me with the confidence and ability



Me backing in the glow of the theatre!

Recent Event Photos!



Rhaina as Lursa a Klingon!



Lt. Sabrina at the October meeting!



Super Shandi!



Mariah relaxing!



Chantal and Ardra by the pool table!



Rhiannon lines up her shot!

*Girls,
just
having
fun!*



Sabrina, Mary, and Chantal at the Sex, Love and Romance Show!!

Sabrina, on duty!
She, Vanessa and Chantal helped out Mary at the Sex, Love and Romance show!



Submit your stories and photos to shandi_strong@hotmail.com.

Every issue needs interesting stories and photos about our members and their own experiences!

More Event Photos!



Charm & Shandi at the RRC social!



New outfit, same Super Shandi!



With our friend Brent at the social!

Halloween Social and Movie outing!



Shandi, Sabrina, Chantal, Vanessa and Rhiannon outside the theatre for "Man of the Year!!"



Shandi & her daughter after the show!



Vanessa & Chantal at Gio's after the movie!



Sabrina and our newest member Suzie at Gio's!

Welcome to Suzie our newest member!

This issue's photos courtesy of Rhaina, Sabrina, & Shandi

Reaching Out!

WINNIPEG SUN **SHOWBIZ** Monday, October 23, 2006

WINNIPEG SUN **SHOWBIZ** Monday, October 31, 2006



MAUREEN SCURFIELD
Miss Lonelyhearts

Secret bi-guy wonders how to leave closet

Dear Miss Lonelyhearts

I'm an early 40s male and over the last couple of years have been exploring and embracing the bisexual lifestyle. I've learned a lot about my desires and have also been cross-dressing on a regular and expanding basis. Luckily (?) I'm single, which makes this easier.

The problem is I'm not a secretive person, and keeping this hidden away from family and friends is becoming more difficult, as my wardrobe and makeup collection grows. When I have visitors that aren't aware of my femme persona, I have to scramble to ensure lots of paraphernalia is hidden away.

I'm pretty sure just showing up at the next family gathering in a dress and makeup and shouting "Surprise!" isn't the way to go. I was wondering/hoping you or some readers could advise me on a way for me to tell my family and friends about this. I'm pretty certain my mother and sister wouldn't have any problems dealing with it but am not so sure about my father and brother. Along with being able to do away with the secrecy aspect, it would also give me the option of establishing a long-term relationship with someone having the same interests.

Busting To Tell the Family
Winnipeg

Dear Busting

Tell your close friends first, as they're likely to be the least shocked. Then tell the most

open-minded women in your family, and let them get used to it. That will take much of the secrecy pressures off and allow you to feel more comfortable about your new lifestyle. Your sister may be curious and want to see your dress-up stuff but don't push it at your momma. Give her more time. It will take everyone a few months to wrap their minds around this new dimension of you.

If you tell the guys in the family at the same time, you'll have to contend with their unease. Make sure no one gets surprised with the news face-to-face — as their reactions could wound you. You don't need to see shock, disgust or strong negativity. Those reactions are likely not to be their last reactions, so give them time to talk things over with the liberal members of the family and get with the program when they can.

Tell your co-workers last, if at all. If people don't have an emotional connection to you, they might be unkind. You should also know there will be sophisticated people in all circles who aren't at all surprised because they will have already noted the biggest cross-dressing giveaway — plucked and trimmed eyebrows.

I agree it'd be helpful for you to hear from people who have come out to friends and families, particularly about the cross-dressing, so I'm inviting readers to write about their experiences with it and give you their tips. I'll publish their letters for you in an upcoming column. Best of luck with your journey! Please write back and tell me how it goes.

If you have problems with your personal life, write Miss L. c/o The Sun, 1700 Church Ave., Winnipeg, R2X 3A2 or e-mail lwscoc@shaw.ca.

WORDS TO LOVE BY

"The hardest struggle of all is to be something different from what the average man is."

Charles M. Schwab

Hey Girls!

Here are two recent Ms. Lonelyhearts columns that I thought might interest you. These came out just before Halloween (funny how that works!) and I felt I just had to respond. I have written to her like this before.

Many years ago she in fact did a positive four piece article on crossdressing before there was Masquerade, which introduced me to Lady Godiva's (pre Mary) and to the fact that there were others here in Winnipeg like me!

Shandi



MAUREEN SCURFIELD
Miss Lonelyhearts

Encouragement from happy cross-dresser

Dear Miss Lonelyhearts

I'd like to thank you for the good common sense advice you gave to "secret bi-guy." It was very open-minded, and I hope friends and family respond well. Mine have, and my history sounds much like his. I'm 45, married to a wonderful accepting woman and have two daughters who know all about my feminine side, which continues to grow, thanks to this acceptance. Part of the acceptance comes from belonging to a group here in the city called Masquerade. We have 50 members, in our 10th year as a group. Over the years we've helped many people explore and come to terms with their feminine selves. Many of those people (like myself) have stayed on and continue to help others with their insights and experience.

Cross-dressing and transgendered issues have become more mainstream, and I've never had a negative experience in public or when telling someone important to me. But there are many people who have and continue to hide, making themselves miserable. Masquerade provides a place where they can come and meet like-minded, non-judgmental people and learn about themselves, all while having fun in a social atmosphere.

It's estimated 5% of the male population cross-dress in some manner. None of us clearly understand why, only that it's a need. Masquerade exists to show cross-dressers and their significant others that not only is it harmless but can be a lot of fun.

Halloween tends to give an

extra bit of courage to many first timers, so that they are able to gauge the reactions of those around them. Please feel free to pass on this e-mail address — girlstuff@masquerade.ca — and our website — www.masquerade.ca — to anyone you may think is interested in more information.

"Shandi"
Winnipeg

Dear Shandi

You're most unusual in having a wife and kids who are so accepting of your cross-dressing. Many wives can't stand having "another woman" in the relationship — often a more glamorous and enthusiastic woman than they are when it comes to makeup, clothing and sparkles.

Some cross-dressers simply can't come out to their wives and families or they WILL lose them. It's particularly hard for growing sons to process, when they're looking to Dad as a role model. To my mind, boys need to be young adults and secure in their sexuality, whatever it may be, before they're confronted with Dad cross-dressing. You're lucky you have daughters.

Even if people can't come out at home, many still like to sneak out! People should know Lady Godiva Boutique (452-1100) isn't just for women. It's closely associated with Masquerade and cross-dresser-friendly, stocking larger sizes in glam clothing and shoes. It's been known for supporting social events catering to the crowd who like to dress up and go out in full regalia.

If you have problems with your personal life, write Miss L. c/o The Sun, 1700 Church Ave., Winnipeg, R2X 3A2 or e-mail lwscoc@shaw.ca.

WORDS TO LOVE BY

"Free your mind, and the rest will follow."

— En Vogue, 1992



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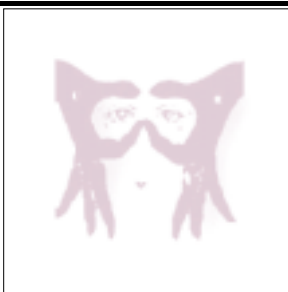
Phone: 204-452-1100

Email:

girlstuff@masquerade.ca

For the girl inside us all!

www.masquerade.ca



ABOUT MASQUERADE

We are a FUN LOVING support group for cross-dressers, and transsexuals.

Our purpose is for people with like/common interests to associate and socialize.

It is not for the purpose of soliciting or engaging in sexual activities.

All gender gifted individuals, who are 18 years of age or older, and are prepared to respect our bi-laws, are welcome.

Spouses and significant others are encouraged and welcome to attend meetings and functions and join if they wish.

We regularly meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

The meetings begin around 7:30 p.m. and go until 9 or 10.

Socializing and dancing are done afterwards!

We endeavour to maintain a fun, friendly, laid-back atmosphere. We are all there for the same reasons-a place to go to that is accepting, private and relaxing. Change facilities are available. Dressing for the first meeting or two is not required, but encouraged!

Special Girls!

Happy Birthday!

Alyssa

Nov 1

Natalie

Nov 5

Brenda

Nov 19

Anita

Nov 25

Legal Stuff: Lipstick & Lace is the official newsletter of Masquerade. Edited by Shandi.

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