



*Things
that
Lena
has
taught
me.*

by Lucinda

Life lessons from my friend Lena, who is older and wiser than me:

1. Doesn't matter what the dish is, if you put cream in it, it will taste better.
2. If unsure of the signals someone is sending you, leaning in for a snog will always bring the issue to a head and lead to some kind of resolution.
3. The best way to avoid unsightly panty lines is to not wear pants.
4. Taking flowers from other people's gardens is only a crime in the daylight hours.
5. Contrary to stereotypes, age will not necessarily weary the enjoyment of recreational drugs and Swedish industrial noise music.
6. Things will sometimes fall apart. It's normal for things to fall apart. Like those stolen flowers dismembering themselves on the mantle piece, even that can be attractive in its own indefinable way.
7. In human affairs, confusion is the natural state. Expect more at your peril.

8. Love the junkies in your life like brothers and sisters, but don't lend them money or tell them where you keep the keys.
9. The role of an artist is not limited to producing art and self promotion: a real artist builds up the community around her, lights fires, fans flames, has grit, lends time, makes time, finds words, shows enthusiasm, looks and sees, hears and listens, shows up early, stays late. In short, is as generous as a saint and may be taken for granted like one.
10. Narcissistic personality disorder means you will need to change the locks.
11. Bend the asparagus: it will snap where the tenderness begins.
12. Sometimes you will be the thing that falls apart. This is also normal. You're not so different from a flower. Don't be afraid of the wilting. The flower is the gauzy, floozy, gossamer wings, movement and colour, and inside it are the seeds, so small and dark, and capable of withstanding nuclear fall out, break ups and changes of government.
13. An ironed tablecloth is next to godliness. A tablecloth makes a meal fit for the gods.
14. Forks, remember, go on the left hand side.
15. Love.