

EVAN'S COMPANION QUIZ:

Elizabethan Gender Roles

1. **In regards to the gender equality in general, Elizabethan England was:**
 - a) ... a socially advanced oasis in a sea of misogynistic cultures.
 - b) ...an era when a woman could command the same rights, respect and authority as a man—but only if she could grow an impressive beard.
 - c) ...deeply patriarchal in its structure and attitudes. Women were not expected to assert any independent authority but were deemed subservient to male relatives whether fathers, brothers or husbands.

2. **Social advancement in Elizabethan culture was:**
 - a) ...impossible without a checklist of the social elite and a lot of guns.
 - b) ...a fairly malleable concept, in which men or women of intelligence and self motivation could climb the economic and social ladder.
 - c) ...was just about impossible for women, who as a practice were denied access to literary rhetoric, which was a crucial element as an “intellectual and linguistic tool” to social mobility.

3. **The ascension of Queen Elizabeth I was received:**
 - a) ...with much weeping and gnashing of teeth.
 - b) ...with open admission on all sides that it was nice to have a lady on the throne now and then.
 - c) ...with some trepidation. Elizabethan men, used to the idea of males being inherently superior to females, were now required by imperial principal to be the obedient subjects of a female monarch.

4. **Popular “gender-emphatic” rhetorical literature began appearing in Elizabethan England, concerned with:**
 - a) ...trying to understand the female point of view. Early modern male readers were encouraged to “cry it out.”
 - b) ...analyzing and breaking down the hierarchal status between men and women.
 - c) ...not only tools for social competition between men, but also strategic guides for containing the threat of female dominance.

5. **Find the real quote by moralist William Harrison concerning gender (read: costume) switching thespians of the London stage:**
 - a) ...“Fabulous!”
 - b) ...“There is a rampant crime that hath extinguished the very souls of the populace. An inexcusable inconsistency—that not every man in London knows the limitless freedom of a good billowy skirt.”
 - c) ...“Some of these [actors] in London are so well disguised that it hath passed my skill to discern whether they are men or women. Thus it has come to pass that women are transformed into men and men transformed into monsters.”

(Hint: If you can't tell, all of the correct answers are “c.”)