

GROWING UP *Gracefully*





**Six-part series screening Wednesdays from 19 July at 9.30pm
on ABC & ABC iView**

Sisters Hannah and Eliza Reilly are two misguided twenty somethings who, after rediscovering the 1950s teen-advice book 'Growing Up Gracefully', ask themselves: as young women in 2017, in a generation raised by the internet, how do we learn to grow up?

As they take on the six key milestones of adulthood Hannah, the reckless party girl, road tests the ladies' etiquette of the past, and Eliza, the dorky home body, is forced to follow the newfangled women's advice of today.

Together they follow more advice for ladies than you can daintily poke a stick at, all to learn what it means to be a woman, and how to grow up gracefully, whatever the f*ck that means.



LOOKING YOUR BEST

If you're a woman (and if so, congrats) you know that from the moment you were blasted from the womb you've been in a beauty contest you didn't even sign up for. So, how do we look our best?

To find out, Hannah follows the old advice of her books, and is grilled by the 'Queen' of etiquette and beauty - June Dally Watkins, flashes her undies to figure out appropriate hem length, and learns how makeup can affect the way you're treated in everyday life.

Eliza, following advice from today, is taught how to get the perfect booty shot by an Instagram model, fills her face with Botox to preserve her youth, and is taught by a personal stylist how to dress to repress her personality flaws.

All to answer the question: how do we young ladies look our best without vajazzling our souls in the process?



COURTSHIP

In the good old days dating was simple. It used to have rules! Those rules were; don't be gay, don't step outside your gender role, don't have sex, and don't date outside your race. Easy! But now it's all so complicated. Are we 'hooking up', or 'hanging out' or just 'sexting?'. So, how should a young lady date?

Eliza, despite already being in a relationship, goes with Hannah to a speed dating night to see what else is out there before settling down, and following her new advice rattles off first date questions from women's magazines.

Hannah, following the advice of her books. Test whether playing dumb on a date actually works, takes a gaggle of Dads shopping for a date outfit a father would approve of, and to make sure her date is up to scratch, she brings along her Mother Julie to approve the match.

Eliza learns find outs that dinner and a movie isn't going to cut it anymore, and that a modern date needs to be 'unique', so she plans an adrenaline inducing surprise for her unsuspecting date, that doesn't go to plan...

MAKING FRIENDS

As women, we know that at a minimum we must be liked by everyone. In the past being liked meant you had sophistication and sincerity. However, popularity today means, much like Taylor Swift, you've got to be flanked by a squad of the coolest girls in town. So, which way is better? How do we make friends?

To find out Hannah and Eliza follow old and new advice for women on making conversation, planning a party and learning to become the apex predator of socialising - 'the perfect hostess'.

To become a cool girl and hopefully find her 'squad', Eliza follows party advice from the internet and decides to throw the greatest warehouse rave of all time.

To redeem the social faux pas of her past, Hannah follows the advice of her etiquette books, and despite barely knowing how to cook an egg, puts on a three-course dinner for the people in her past that she's wronged, bringing some surprise star power to the party to impress them.



THE MATTER OF SEX

There's plenty of advice out there on what we ladies should or shouldn't be doing when it comes to sex. Back in the day you kept chaste until your wedding night but these days it's about getting freaky in every which way, as often as possible. So, what are we meant to do, slut it up or lock it down?

Eliza, following her modern advice, learns how to love herself in a masturbation workshop, heads to a sex dungeon to get tips on spanking her boyfriend from a dominatrix, and tries a kink that brings them closer together.

Hannah, who is following women's advice from the past, packs away her dildos and becomes chaste with the help of a 'purity' coach and learns about the extremes some women are expected to go in order to keep their virginity. Which leads them both to the question, what is a 'slut' anyway?



CAREER

A woman's place used to be in the home but, when it comes to the paid workforce, it took a world war for women to be allowed in. And once you're there; play nice and you're a pushover, assert yourself and you're a bitch. So how should we young ladies navigate the workforce?

To find out Eliza, following her modern career advice, is told that you have to 'go big' to get an employer's attention. So, she plans an elaborate strategy to get noticed by a PR firm in order to land her first job and tests out being a 'bitch' to get ahead.

Hannah, currently a stressed-out workaholic who regularly pulls out her hair, decides to test out the old workplace method of being a 'nurturing mother to the boys' at work.

The girls are taught by a gender workplace expert how not to get screwed and to ask for more when it comes to a young lady's salary. Because even today, Australian women are severely underrepresented in high paid positions So, like all complicated economic problems, Hannah and Eliza present a solution to the pay gap in song form.



SPIRITUALITY

As children Hannah and Eliza had a reverse baptism of sorts after being told God wasn't real by their mum, when they were in the bath. They haven't been spiritual since. Spirituality according to the old advice meant popping on your hat and gloves, heading into church, and having a chat to the big white man in the sky. But today, we're told enlightenment can be found by doing yoga, on Pinterest, in adult colouring books, by backpacking through Europe, or dropping a tab twirling poi at Burning Man. So, with all this advice out there, how do we find ourselves?

Eliza, following the path of new age spirituality, learns about 'self-love' and goes on a shopping spree, finding out just how many enlightening products on the market there are for women. She then finds her chakras and learns about aliens, goddesses and twirls fire at a women's spirituality retreat to discover if magic really does happen.

Hannah's old advice says she need only consult with one person when it comes to spirituality, God, aka 'Sky Dad'. So, she tries to find higher meaning through charity by spending time with nuns, after which realises just how selfish her life is. She tries to convince a Catholic priest to baptize her in the fear of going to hell but when he refuses, she manages to find a potential loophole to heaven...

At the end of the series, together the girls finally consult with a reliable source of advice on how to grow up - their mother Julie. The girls have learnt that whether you've lived in 1950, or live 2017, women have always been piled with too many expectations on what we should be and how we should behave. The best strategy of all is to just do you, and ultimately, say "F**k advice".



ELIZA

is a sweet dorky homebody that craves to be the 'cool' girl. She's worried she's settled down too early and wants to start taking risks, push her personal boundaries and live the way she's been told a normal, reckless twenty something should be.

HANNAH

works hard and plays harder. She's a stubborn headed party girl with few boundaries and always takes things too far. She wants to learn to become a refined young lady and live a more wholesome life that leads to far fewer romantic humiliations and social faux pas.





Production Credits

Growing up Gracefully is a Giant Dwarf Production, developed and produced in association with the ABC. Created, written, and presented by Hannah Reilly and Eliza Reilly. Executive Producer Julian Morrow, Series Producer Nikita Agzarian, ABC Executive Producers Richard Huddleston and Michael Badcock.



#GrowingUpGracefully



Publicity Contact:

For further information, contact;
Bridget Stenhouse at ABC TV Publicity
T: (02) 8333 3847 or E: stenhouse.bridget@abc.net.au
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