

Dickory Dock

making more of time

Need a wife? - I do...

There's a new trend, hot from the States, in Lifestyle Management and Concierge Services. SUZANNE MARTIN finds after 7 years of marriage, two sons, and a new business, what she needs is a wife.

I am so stressed right now. Another deadline is looming as always, I've an article to finish and photography to start for a different publication, and the last of my eldest son's school paraphernalia to buy for his first day at 'big boy' school. He's excited, I'm a wreck.

How many times have I said to my husband - I need a wife (usually at the top of my voice). Well, turns out, I might just have got one from a lifestyle management company called Dickory Dock.

My new 'wife', Mariella, turns up promptly at 9am to go through my ever expanding 'to do' list. There's a book-keeper to source, vet and hire (I lose the will to live), dry cleaning and alterations to be dropped off (been 'waiting' at the door for 6 months), cheques to be popped to the bank, food shopping to buy and an upcoming 5th birthday party to research. As I head up to Balfron for the photo shoot I leave Mariella waiting in for the gas man armed with a frightening list of tasks to complete before I return. I should be relaxed, but I actually feel quite stressed on her behalf. I don't want to have set her up to fail, after all I've been trying to get round to some of these jobs for months now. Mariella, however, seems friendly, calm and in control, and waves me off with a smile.

Then I get to thinking on the lovely 40 minute drive up to the Trossachs - I've just left a complete stranger in my house with access to all our paper work, files, bank accounts, and with internet access. I'm likely to have my identity stolen at the very least. Maybe we should have had a few smaller dates to start off our relationship? I reassure myself that I did vet Mariella and check out her qualifications and was offered the opportunity to speak to a previous client - even if I didn't take that offer up.

All goes well in Balfron, and photography complete, coffee drunk, and chat had, I head back to the West End feeling rather relaxed and full of expectation. I arrive home with new insight into my husband's daily routine: heading back to an organised house and home life after a hard day at work, no niggles over uncleaned suede coats or fancy dress or no fancy dress for 5-year-olds fogging up his mental radar. As I drive up to the house the jitters start again though ... will my house and its contents still be there? They are, whew!

We meet in the kitchen for a debriefing, the kids are back and the daily fight of 'SpongeBob' versus 'Me

Too' is playing out in the front room. The boiler is fixed (again), the food is in the fridge, the cheques in the bank, the clothes to be mended or cleaned with the right people, and 3 possibles for the unenviable task of straightening out my books ready and waiting for my call (I couldn't quite relinquish all power I'm afraid). But, most importantly of all, three venues for an undisclosed horde of primary 1's to wreak havoc upon have been phoned for details and availability and are merely waiting for my yeah or nay. I feel mentally uncluttered and in control.

I have a few more hours 'banked' with Mariella to finalise a few things and then it is time for us to part our ways, like adults. Her rates are reasonable though, and my life as busy as ever so I reckon I'll be back to rekindle our relationship before too long even if it's just for an hour or so. Good, I'm missing her already.



Gift Voucher Offer -

Book hours with Dickory Dock before the 30th November and receive an introductory rate of just £35* for 2 hours. It might just be the 'thoughtful' Christmas stocking filler to put a smile on your stressed-out partner/ spouse/ friends face. At the very least it will be an original and useful gift! Quote CTGWE3.

*Terms & conditions apply.

Contact Mariella MacLeod at:
Dickory Dock
Lifestyle Management & Concierge Services
88 Fernlea, Bearsden G61 1NB
0141 942 8374
07766 425 775
mariella@dickory-dock.com
www.dickory-dock.com

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