

I have the kitchen skills of a 10-yr-old

THE MIKE WARD INTERVIEW



**JENNY
ECLAIR
COMEDIAN**

JENNY Eclair sounds exasperated. The guys who make Shreddies fart pants still haven't called.

She's convinced they'd be the perfect backers for Older And Wider, the hilarious but as-yet-unsponsored podcast she makes with her pal Judith Holder.

"We talk about them quite a lot," she sighs, "and their PRs just haven't picked it up."

It's almost as if the makers of Shreddies fart pants feel they're above that sort of thing, I suggest.

"What? They think they're above us?" she cries.

Luckily, Jenny has other sources of income to keep the wolf well away from the door.

Not just the stand-up comedy with which she made her name but her other, more recent career as a novelist. She's just published book number five, *Inheritance*.

Centred on a huge old house in Cornwall passed down through generations of a posh but deeply dysfunctional family, it's been getting rave reviews.

Bouffant

Jenny admits she sees herself in several of the characters she dreamed up for the story, including a working class girl tangled up in this privileged family's world.

"I identify as much with her as anybody," she says.

"I've been a shop girl, I've had a blonde bouffant, I've slept with the wrong men."

Her stand-up stuff inevitably gets put on hold while she's working on a book. But when she does get to step out on stage, 59-year-old Jenny still loves grabbing attention.

Strutting out in just her bra and pants, for example. How much courage did that take?

"Oh, probably the least courage of anything I've ever had to do on stage," explaining it was her tour manager's idea. "It was a great joke. It got the right reaction every time."

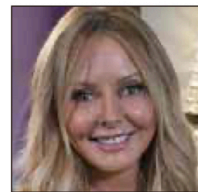
"Obviously I have to be the centre of attention when I'm on stage," she concedes, "otherwise I've kind of lost it. But I can't keep it up. I'm not at full tilt all my life."

One of the things people love about Jenny is her refusal to take herself too seriously. Mention any reality TV show she's done and



HIGH HOOPS: Stand-up Jenny also has a book career

Pictures: HUMPHREY NEMAR



HOST: Vorderman

Honour them all

CELEBRITIES will celebrate the achievements of Britain's unsung heroes at the Daily Mirror Pride Of Britain awards tonight.

Carol Vorderman will present the ceremony, which honours people who have performed outstanding acts of courage and bravery.

A slew of famous faces will be at the bash including Gareth Southgate, Ant & Dec, Amanda Holden and Sir Michael Caine.

Carol said: "The winners represent the very best of us. I never fail to be humbled by them, and this year's are no different."

I have to be the centre of attention on stage

JENNY'S FAVOURITES
FILM: Goodfellas
BOOK: The Line Of Beauty by Alan Hollinghurst
TV SHOW: Brooklyn Nine-Nine
ACTOR: Cillian Murphy
SPORTSPERSON: Simone Biles
SPORTING EVENT: Gymnastics
SINGER: David Bowie
COLOUR: Pale pink
DRINK: Dark Horse Chardonnay
CITY: Venice
GADGET: Tweezers
APP: Twitter
SCHOOL SUBJECT: Art

she'll poke fun at her own efforts.

"I'm one of those people who thinks they can't do anything," she insists.

What about Celebrity MasterChef? "They saw straight through me. I have the kitchen skills of a 10-year-old..."

What about I'm A Celeb? Jenny came third on that, back in 2010. That was a genuine achievement, right? "Yeah, but you

didn't actually have to do anything on that show."

So would Jenny fancy Strictly, say? "Oh, yeah," she says. "But I'm musically useless. I've no musicality at all. Otherwise I'd have been a pop star. "I mean, my whole career has been because I can't sing. If I could, I'd have been in musicals. I'd have been great."

"But I am absolutely talented."

● *Inheritance by Jenny Eclair is out now (Sphere, £14.99). Older And Wider is available via the usual podcast sources.*

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