

Tracey Rolfe

## REAL MEN

Forget feminism and  
opening or not opening doors,  
real men have their own etiquette,  
one which has nothing  
to do with women.

Consider the urinal:  
here the laws  
of thirds and halves rule.  
The first man  
positions himself at one-third,  
the second at two-thirds.  
Number three must split the difference  
and take a position at half.  
For four  
the dilemma is:  
halfway between one and three  
or halfway between three and two?  
Number five takes the one four didn't  
and so it goes on.  
But how do they measure the distance?  
Guesswork?  
Perhaps they come  
with inbuilt measuring sticks?

And then there are the eyes:  
these must remain fixed  
on the wall directly in front  
or can be permitted  
to find a point on the ceiling  
but if someone should have the temerity  
to strike up a conversation,  
then and only then  
may the eyes find a spot  
on the wall in front

of the other man.  
On no account may the eyes slide  
to where they could  
check out the next man,  
size him up.

These rules are unspoken, unwritten  
but every man instinctively knows them,  
they are birthed with this knowledge  
and every man knows  
real men obey the rules.