



## THE ORIGINAL INDEPENDENT WOMAN

Lady Colin Campbell was a woman who refused to go away and hide quietly after her divorce scandal, explains Anne Jordan in her book *Love Well the Hour*

Lady Colin Campbell was a woman who refused to go away and hide quietly after her divorce scandal, explains Anne Jordan in her book *Love Well the Hour*. "I've always enjoyed reading historical biographies, so after seeing the beautiful Boldini portrait of Lady Colin Campbell in 1994, I tried to find her biography. There was only one book, but that concentrated on her divorce trial and left many questions unanswered. So I started digging around at weekends, as a hobby. The more I learned, the more I saw parallels with my own life, as I was trying to establish my own career in London at the time," says author Anne Jordan. "I also became convinced that this fascinating woman had a story to tell." Lady Colin Campbell was born Gertrude Elizabeth Blood in May 1857. In October 1880 she met Lord Colin Campbell, MP and youngest son of the 8th Duke of Argyll. Within three days they were engaged and, despite his family's objections, they married the following year. Gertrude was launched into an elevated social circle where she enjoyed the company of royalty, eminent politicians and famous names of the day. But all was not well at home, as the couple's incompatibility became glaringly apparent. The marriage broke down and ended up in the dreaded divorce courts. Lord Colin Campbell accused his wife of adultery with four co-respondents and scandalised society with such a suggestion.

After the trial, the couple went their separate ways. Gertrude slowly created a new life for herself as a journalist. Although shunned by much of society, her beauty, intelligence and wit were welcome in the more liberal circles of artists and writers. She was a close friend of the artist and dandy Whistler, and knew the Burne-Jones's. George Bernard Shaw listened to her advice on his early work, and remained a life-long friend, and Henry James used to visit her. In her articles Gertrude advocated ideas such as bicycle lanes on roads, cremation as an alternative to burial and equal smoking rights for women. When many in her place would have quietly retired to the country, or found refuge in their nerves, she carved herself a career, threw herself into her sports, and created a new life as an independent woman. Yet little is known of her today; the few references cruelly describe her as a "sex goddess" or "hour". Anne Jordan's biography aims to redress the balance and give her life a full and fair hearing. This book tells the story of one of the most gifted women of her day and will appeal to readers interested in history and feminism.

"An important biography of this historical and colorful figure."  
*Bruce Henderson, #1 New York Times Bestselling Author*

**About the Author:** After completing undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, Anne Jordan worked for ten years as a business researcher in various City jobs. This included work at a corporate investigations company where she was responsible for researching and writing reports on businessmen under investigation, whetting her appetite for biography writing.

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