

2013

# Potpourri

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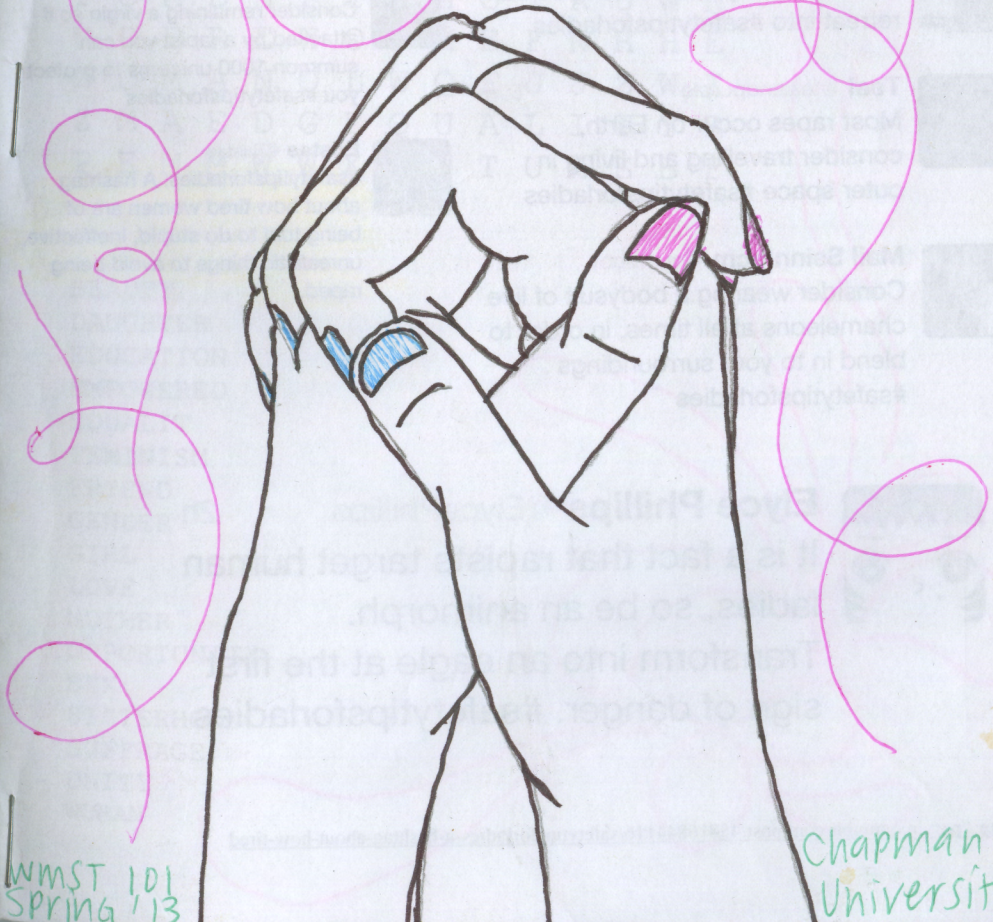
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WORLDWIDE



WMST 101  
Spring '13

Chapman  
University

Cover by Jasmín Sánchez

Craft Corner: Crochet  
An Art Passed on from Woman to Woman  
Jessica Swaney

It may seem difficult to connect crochet with feminism. How could a hook and yarn or thread be related to feminism at all? Let's learn some history.

The art of modern crocheting is theorized to date back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, however, no evidence has been found to support this theory. There is evidence of crochet in Europe dating back to the 1800s instead. Research suggests that crochet originated from Chinese needlework that eventually hit Europe in the 1700s. In Europe, the craft was referred to as "tambouring". This technique was similar to modern crochet as we know it today, except the stitches were made with using a tightly pulled background fabric. At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the French did away with the background fabric and began to make standalone stitches.

During the potato famine in Ireland (1845 to 1850), the art of Irish crocheted lace helped save starving families. Women (and some men) worked together in awful conditions to crochet items for sale. Buyers were unaware that these beautiful and delicate creations were made by poverty-stricken workers. Schools were formed to teach others how to crochet. People were trained in the art and sent all over the country to teach others. Families relied heavily on the money earned through crocheting, and used that money to emigrate elsewhere. Along with their belongings, they also took with them the art of crocheting. American women were influenced by the Irish immigrants' crocheting.

Now, crocheting is passed on from generation to generation: grandmothers teaching granddaughters, mothers teaching daughters, aunts teaching nieces; friends also teach each other how to crochet. While there are men that crochet, the art is predominantly done by females. Many items can be made by crocheting: clothing, purses and bags, dishcloths and other household items, even stuffed animals can be crocheted.

Crocheting allowed women to make money to provide for their families and build better lives. To this day, many women earn their own money from crocheted creations. If you browse Etsy, you'll see plenty of crocheted items for sale. Intricate items with crocheted lace or items that require expert levels of skill can sell for high dollar amounts, while beginners and intermediate crocheters can also sell their creations.

Crocheting is a craft dominated by women and allowed women to earn money. Crochet's link to feminism doesn't seem that far-fetched now, does it?

Anyone can learn to crochet with the right materials (crochet hooks, yarn) and some patience. I had always wanted to learn how to crochet but my grandmother never got to teach me. I still have blankets she crocheted me years ago. I ended up teaching myself how to crochet with the help of YouTube videos online. Practice makes perfect, and I now can make all kinds of neat things. All it takes is knowledge of a few basic stitches to be able to make a lot of different crafts. The Internet is a great resource to not only learn how to crochet, but to find some great crochet patterns written by other crocheters. Many patterns are available for free, while others need to be purchased. Here I have written my own original pattern for you all to try. I've written it out in full words to try to make understanding the pattern easier, and so beginners will have no problem picking up on the design.

Now, who wants to make a nifty feminist-inspired bookmark, just like the one included in this zine?

# VENTING ☹️

This is getting REALLY old. How good  
"famous" do I have to become to earn  
the title PRODUCER or COMPOSER, not  
"female producer" or "female composer."  
Stop calling me cute or quirky because I make  
easy beats. Just because I'm female  
doesn't mean I'm only allowed to write  
pretty melodies and quiet songs. Stop hitting  
on me when I walk into the studio. Why  
do you only respect me when you find out  
I'm the one who was hired to produce  
your fucking record, and NOT one of your  
video hoers? Then you proceed to rap or sing  
about the most hateful bullshit over my  
music, and I'm supposed to sit there  
quietly and press play. But it pays for my  
education, including my Women's Studies  
class...



**Hilary Bowman-Smart** @hilar... 4h  
 If you hide your forearms in your sleeves, the rapist will mistake you for a T-Rex and carry on his way  
 #safetytipsforladies

Top Tweet

end VICTIM BLAMING!



**Quirkynthrope** @jailawrites 44m  
 If you're raped, say "I'm a good girl!" Since "good girls" never get raped, the rapist will vanish in a puff of logic #safetytipsforladies



**Tom Ballard** @TomCBallard  
 Research the ins and outs of rape and rapists by watching every season of SVU #safetytipsforladies



**Tom Ballard** @TomCBallard 46m  
 ALWAYS carry a shell that you can retreat into #safetytipsforladies



**Coley Tangerina** @ColeyTan... 30  
 Consider remaining a virgin so if attacked by a rapist you can summon 1000 unicorns to protect you #safetytipsforladies



**Teal** @tealandpurple 50m  
 Most rapes occur on Earth, consider travelling and living in outer space #safetytipsforladies



**Eristae** @Eristae 41  
 #safetytipsforladies: A hashtag about how tired women are of being told to do stupid, ineffective unrealistic things to avoid being raped.

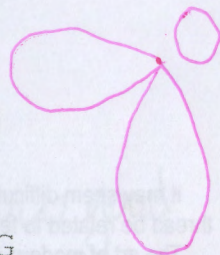


**Mail Ssinnigcm** @gumbuoy 2h  
 Consider wearing a bodysuit of live chameleons at all times, in order to blend in to your surroundings #safetytipsforladies



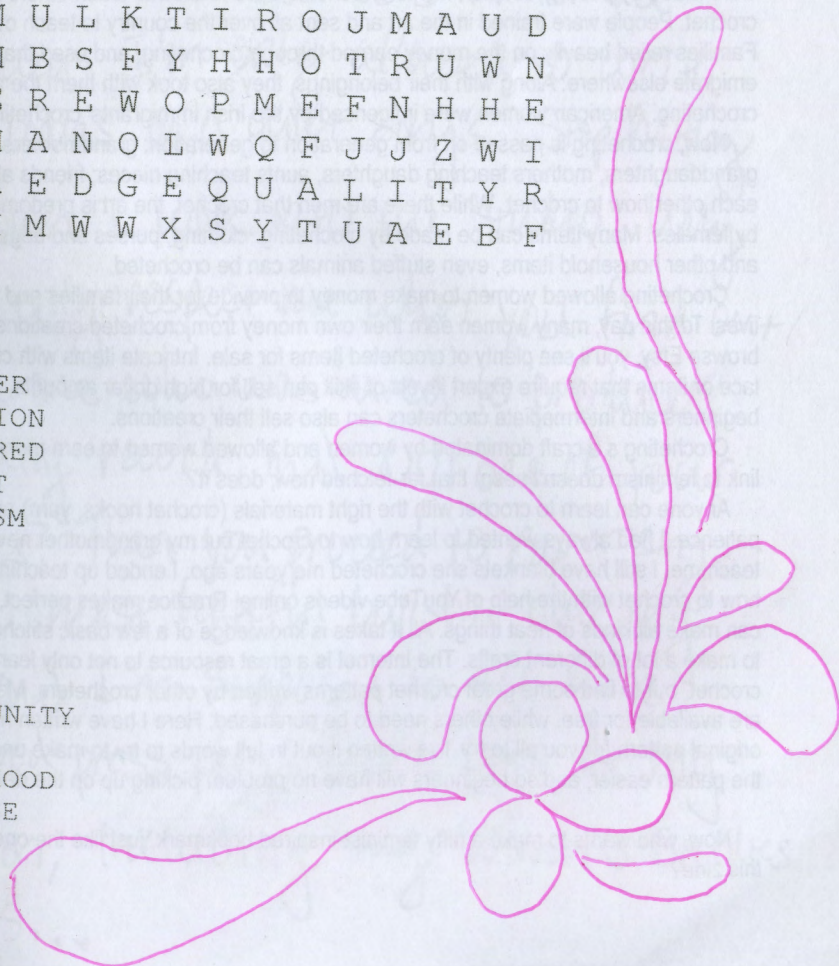
**Elyce Phillips** @ElycePhillips 2h  
 It is a fact that rapists target human ladies, so be an animorph. Transform into an eagle at the first sign of danger. #safetytipsforladies

# Empowering Words



N L L N D N O M M P Q S X X G  
 R O O W Q E P W S X E W L E D  
 J E I V U D P A I X Y S N T A  
 P Y H T E C O F N T Q D S M U  
 H V B T A W R F I G E J L S G  
 G Z Y N O C T N M R S W I X H  
 E I M Z G M U O E V M S T D T  
 S C D M I L N D F W T C R R E  
 N J V Z R P I M E E Z L Z G R  
 L W M U L K T I R O J M A U D  
 F O M B S F Y H H O T R U W N  
 M D E R E W O P M E F N H H E  
 W O M A N O L W Q F J J Z W I  
 Z M A E D G E Q U A L I T Y R  
 P E M M W W X S Y T U A E B F

- BEAUTY
- DAUGHTER
- EDUCATION
- EMPOWERED
- EQUALIT
- FEMINISM
- FRIEND
- GENDER
- GIRL
- LOVE
- MOTHER
- OPPORTUNITY
- SEX
- SISTERHOOD
- SUFFRAGE
- UNITY
- WOMAN

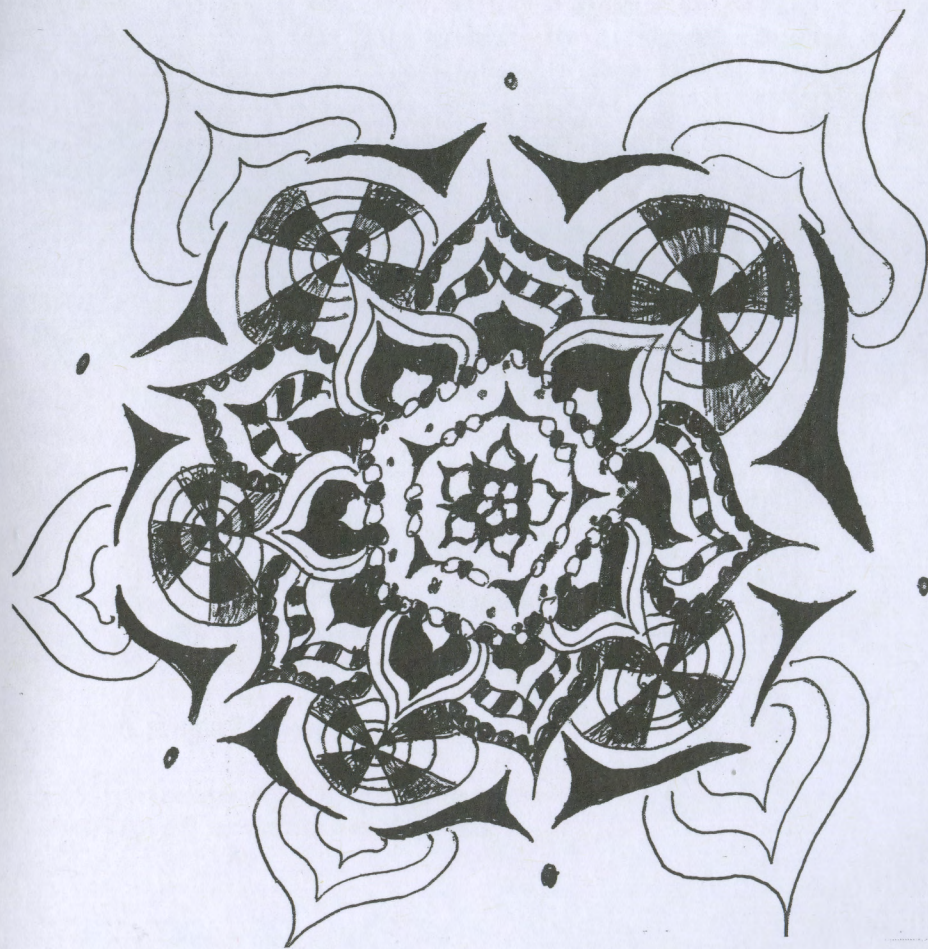


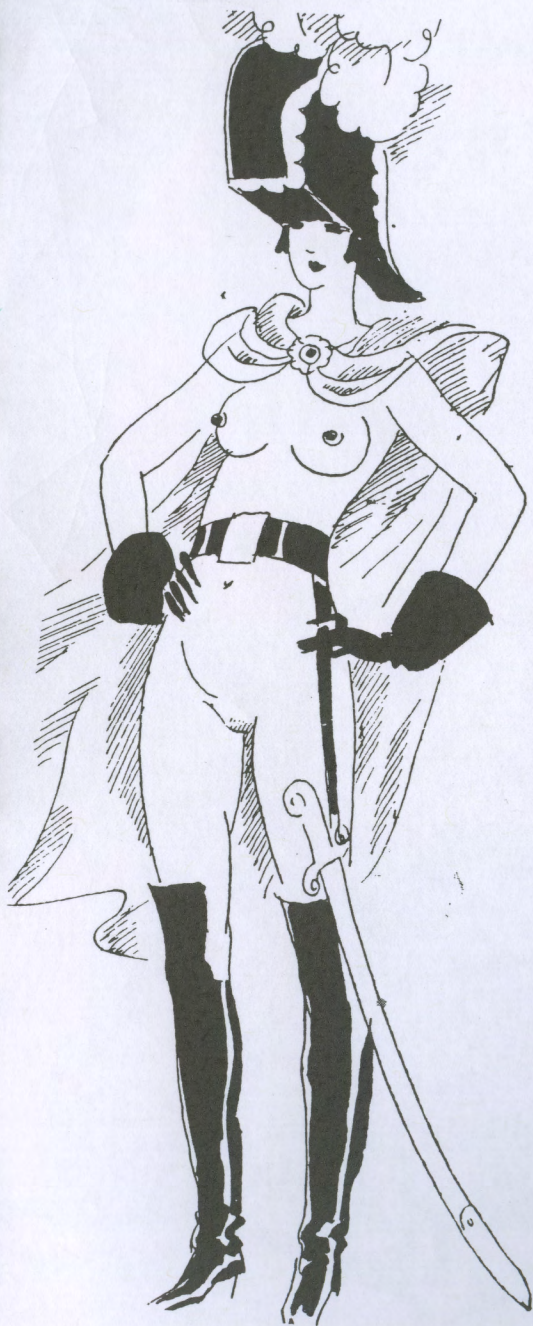


### Tracklist:

- 0:00 Janelle Monáe - Sir Green down
- 2:05 Papi - Love Yo SteeZ (Baby)
- 4:35 Cartoon Clouds - Stephanie's Lake
- 7:40 Aaliyah - Rock the Boat (Colta Rework)
- 1:50 Janet Jackson - Someone to call my lover (Kloud Rmx)
- 2:45 Nalepa - Outpost ft. Mike Parvizi
- 5:00 Graffitiage - Close 2 Me
- 7:45 Nobody - LINGUS
- 9:50 Penthouse Penthouse - Endless

- 1:40 - Penthouse Penthouse - In the Penthouse
- 3:30 King Henry - Berimbau
- 5:30 Daedalus - Order of the Golden Dawn
- 1:35 Teles - Late Time
- 1:40 King Henry - Szabo ft. Mike Parvizi
- 4:25 Kerilyn Segal - Busy Busy Busy
- 6:25 Nobody - You can know her
- 9:40 Radiohead - House of Cards
- 5:00 Austin Peralta - Ode to Love





# TO BE A GIRL

## Make Your Own FemPower Bookmark!

The following is a full-text pattern to crochet your own FemPower bookmark. This bookmark is a beginner's level pattern. This pattern is an original pattern created by Jessica Swaney.

Part I. Start with making the Venus symbol ♀ first.

Recommended: I hook.

**Begin:** Form a slip knot and slip it onto the crochet hook. Chain 5. Slip stitch to form a ring.

**Round 1:** Chain 1. Single crochet 8 stitches inside the ring. Slip stitch into the first single crochet to join. (Total of 8 stitches.)

**Round 2:** Chain 1. Make 2 single crochet stitches in each single crochet around. Slip stitch in first single crochet to join. (16 stitches)

**Round 3:** Chain 1. Make 1 single crochet in the next single crochet. Make 2 single crochets in the next single crochet. Alternate between 1 single crochet and 2 single crochets in each stitch around. Slip stitch to join. (24 stitches)

You should now have a flat circle with a hole in the center.

Chain 7. Single crochet back up the row of chains created. Slip stitch into the top of the circle. Cut yarn, fasten off by pulling the yarn through the loop and forming a knot. Weave in the end and beginning slip knot tail. (6 stitches)

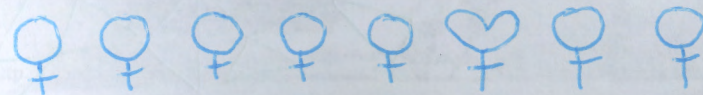
Insert hook into the third stitch from the circle on the single crochet row hanging from the circle. Create a slip knot and insert onto hook. Pull the hook through the third stitch. Double crochet once inside the same stitch. Cut, fasten off, and weave in ends. Repeat for opposite side, also in the third stitch. (1 stitch per side)

Part II. Now to make the Bookmark string. Recommended: G hook.

Slip stitch at the top of the completed Venus symbol.

Chain 36. Single crochet 35 into the chain. (35 stitches)

Slip stitch the row back into the top of the Venus symbol. Cut, fasten off, and weave in the ends.



## Reclaiming "Bitch"

### How to Turn an Insult into a Compliment

Jessica Swaney

I'm sure many women (and men) have been called a "bitch". Most of us think this is an insult. Who says we can't turn that around?

I have been called a bitch many times in my life - I've been called a bitch while acting as a leader of an organization; I've been called a bitch during arguments with significant others; I've been called a bitch for speaking my mind bluntly and honestly; and I've been called a bitch just for existing in a moment in time and space. Being called a bitch happens in my life often. It used to bother me. A lot. But then I finally realized that letting this word bother me was stupid, and it was letting everyone else win.

The original definition of "bitch" meant a female dog. Now it has evolved and has other meanings. Merriam-Webster provides alternate definitions such as "a lewd or immoral woman" and "a malicious, spiteful, or overbearing woman - sometimes used as a generalized term of abuse." This word is meant to hurt, insult, and tear down others. But I have a different definition for what this word means.

Based on observation, I tend to be called this name when I'm speaking my mind or having a more dominant role in whatever is going on. If being a bitch means I'm being openly honest, speaking my mind, and standing up for myself, I'll gladly be a bitch. If being a bitch means being unafraid to take charge in a situation, I'll gladly be a bitch. If being a bitch means being more independent, doing things for myself, and being willing to put up a fight, I'll gladly be a bitch. If being a bitch means being a strong woman, I will gladly be a bitch.

If women are going to be called bitches for having these traits and qualities, then let's turn the connotation around. Let's take back the meaning of the word and turn it into something positive. It isn't an impossible task, but it will require both effort and open-mindedness from both men and women. Being called a bitch no longer has to be a bad thing.

from

## We Need More Musicians Like Grimes

Jasmin Sanchez



Claire Boucher, aka Grimes, not only creates awesome, intricate, electronic pop but she also openly speaks out about sexism in the music industry. She's not afraid to call herself a feminist (as so many other musicians are.)

She's attained success in the indie music world & uses this platform to attack many important issues. She's not afraid to express the instances of sexism she encounters, such as photographers trying to oversexualize her for photoshoots, other musicians not taking her seriously for being a woman, and critics infantilizing her as an artist.

She's completely self-made & works alone. She takes full control of every aspect of her career (writing, producing, directing, playing instruments) and doesn't let outside influences dictate what kind of artist she should be.

She's a victim of assault & created a song ('Oblivion') & an accompanying music video about it. *"I needed to make this song. I took one of the most shattering experiences of my life and turned it into something I can build a career on and that allows me to travel the world. I play it live every night. The whole process has been positive - engaging with that subject matter and making it into something good."*

She designed her own line of 'pussy ring' - literally a cast of a vulva on a ring

She acknowledges her white/thin/beauty privilege. Although she used to wear bindis she's since stopped & apologized for appropriating.

+++SO MUCH MORE!! LISTEN TO GRIMES & READ HER INTERVIEWS!!



<http://actualgrimes.tumblr.com/page/4>

Jasmin Sanchez

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from her personal blog:

"I don't want to have to compromise my morals in order to make a living

i dont want to be infantilized because i refuse to be sexualized

i dont want to be molested at shows or on the street by people who perceive me as an object that exists for their personal satisfaction

I'm tired of men who aren't professional or even accomplished musicians continually offering to 'help me out' (without being asked), as if i did this by accident and i'm gonna flounder without them. or as if the fact that I'm a woman makes me incapable of using technology. I have never seen this kind of thing happen to any of my male peers

im tired of being considered vapid for liking pop music or caring about fashion as if these things inherently lack substance or as if the things i enjoy somehow make me a lesser person

im tired of being congratulated for being thin because i can more easily fit into sample sizes from the runway

im tired of people i love betraying me so they can get credit or money

I'm sad that it's uncool or offensive to talk about environmental or human rights issues

I'm tired of creeps on message boards discussing whether or not they'd "fuck" me

I'm tired of people harassing my dancers and treating them like they aren't human beings

I'm sad that my desire to be treated as an equal and as a human being is interpreted as hatred of men, rather than a request to be included and respected (I have four brothers and many male best friends and a dad and i promise i do not hate men at all, nor do i believe that all men are sexist or that all men behave in the ways described above)

im tired of being referred to as 'cute,' as a 'waif' etc., even when the author, fan, friend, family member etc. is being positive

I'm tired of people assuming that just because something happens regularly it's ok

i have so much love for everyone who has been cool and amazing. I have the best job in the world but I'm done with being passive about any kind of status quo that allows anyone to suffer or to be disrespected"



<http://actualverimes.tumblr.com/page/4>

Jasmin Sanchez



# Positive Alternatives to "The Walk of Shame"

♥ "Got Laid Parade"

♥ "Stride of Pride"

♥ "Post-Cock Walk"

♥ "Just-Touched-A-Butt Strut"

♥ "Took Off My Pants Dance"

♥ "G-Spot Trot"

♥ "Had Fun With the Clit, Time to Split"

