



This is a torn copy of the jazz standard “Billie’s Bounce.” It is a 12-bar blues from the 1940s by the saxophonist Charlie Parker. I tore it by accident while pulling it from under a stack of other music books. I was impatient and therefore didn’t move the other books that were on top of it. I was impatient because I am angry with myself and my inability to improvise.

What does this have to do with feminism? I played [redacted] as a teenager and had the opportunity to learn to improvise. However, women were [redacted] men. Usually, only the most [redacted] these women fought with each other [redacted]. It was [redacted] and [redacted]. At the time I had a [redacted] talented saxophone player [redacted]. I wasn’t a “natural musician.”

After a gap of seventeen years, I return to the challenge of improvisation.