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**VOLUME 3.2: the
trickster**

featuring:

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TING STICKS**

by Claire Hollingsworth

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by Rozzy Middleton

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HIT ME WITH YOUR KNITTING STICKS

An exercise in masochism for tea-drinking prudes (sexual gratification not included)

by Claire Hollingsworth

Do you hate yourself a little bit? Fear not, most people hate themselves, at least a little bit, some of the time. What's more, **there are probably people who hate you just as much as you hate yourself.** So you are definitely not alone.

Given this, it is not surprising that we might want to punish ourselves from time to time. We all have our little masochistic indulgences, whether in the form of habitual vices, or little adrenaline boosters that catch us by pleasantly terrifying surprise. However, as with any crutch, you might find that these vices can lose their spark.

Has smoking a pack a day become too relaxing? Hard drugs are starting to feel a little soft? Promiscuous sex is feeling a little bit humdrum? Is the thought of drunkenness a little bit sobering?

Take heart, there are a bounty of ways you can flirt with death or near fatal injury which you may not have yet considered. Those of us that somehow missed the masochistic bandwagon of hard partying (whether through naïve ignorance, rebellion, or general uptight prudence) have had to be a little bit creative when it comes to the fine art of self-punishment.

So settle back, pour yourself some peppermint tea (don't be afraid to spill a bit of boiling water on your hand), and light some incense (you might accidentally set fire to the doily underneath it while you are at it), and prepare to be gently incensed.



MASOCHISTIC TIPS FOR TEA-DRINKING PRUDES:

1) TRY A LITTLE AUDACIOUS GUSTATION:

Eat chicken from that ominous little restaurant on the corner; the one that is subject to far more rumours than it is customers. Better yet, order it to take away and leave it on the counter for a couple of hours, put in your fridge for 3 days or more, then consume.

2) GET A BIT DEADLY ON YOUR TREADLY:

Insist on riding your rusty old bike even though the brakes gave out weeks ago. Take the scenic route; down hills and over highways. Stop yourself by bear hugging traffic light poles, feel the exhilaration as the cars and trucks whoosh past. In Melbourne good spots for this include: Little Collins St, approaching the intersection of Swanston St. Punt Rd approaching Alexandra Ave.

3) COP A SERVE, TOTEM TENNIS STYLE:

Who doesn't like a bit of totem tennis? Be sure to hit the ball way too hard, and make uncoordinated attempts to hit it some more as it comes around again. Feel the rush of excitement as it eventually smacks you in the face. Karma has never been so tangible. (Fun for the whole family, or on your own).

4) IF LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS, STEAL SOME MORE FROM AROUND THE CORNER, JUST FOR THE THRILL OF IT.

That cake you are baking could really use a citrus lift. Why not stroll around the corner and steal some lemons from that grumpy lady's tree for the second time this week? This could be the day she follows through and acts out on her furious threats of violence – you never know your luck. You know what they say, luck comes to those who persist.

5) SEW YOU THINK YOU CAN ACUPUNCTURE?

When sewing lavender pillows for your friends, don't be afraid to turn down the volume on your already mellow Django Reinhardt mix. Odds are, it'll lull you into a dreamy state, a deliriously reckless place to be when operating dangerous machinery such as the humble sewing machine. Nothing quite beats the sheer terror of being jolted awake as you put your finger through a sewing machine. What's more, your friends' lavender pillows will be laced with your blood and tears. Now if that doesn't bond you like a hard night out crashing stolen cars after a crystal meth binge, I don't know what will.

BEING EMIL McAVOY: THE ARTIST AS TRICKSTER

by Rozzy Middleton

Crossing both physical and social boundaries, the Trickster is a traveller, breaking rules and defying authority, he invents clever solutions in order to keep cultures—and our cultural stories—from becoming stagnant.

These characteristics of the Trickster can also be the hallmarks that define the Artist and the Political Protestor. While the latter two may not always adopt a mischievous approach, or make us laugh, all three exist to challenge and explore social conventions, examine established ways of being and create new ways of identifying with the world.

At the centre of Auckland based artist Emil McAvoy's art practice is this ability to cross boundaries and create new meanings. His infamous baton series work. *Better Work Stories* (He Patu! Ano) (2007) was a collection of brightly coloured and explicitly phallic police batons. The title was borrowed from a New Zealand Police recruitment campaign that arguably glamorized police culture. McAvoy's work provoked debate around historic abuses of power and the limits of control by relating an already controversial policing tool with rape allegations against Police Officers.



When McAvoy spied an opportunity recently to create an art project about the issues surrounding a political debate, he knew he had to be more than a little deviant in his approach in order to create a socially charged work.

Being John Minto resulted from the arrest of political activist John Minto in early 2010. McAvoy had followed Minto's political activity for many years and this protest had many complex issues at play. Minto was arrested in January 2010 for leading a protest at the Auckland Tennis Stadium. Minto and others demanded that Israeli player Shahar Peer withdraw from the tournament and denounce the Israeli Government's policies towards Palestinians. Minto and his fellow protesters stood outside the tennis match with loudhailers, attracting the attention of attendant media who were covering this high profile sporting event. Minto said Israel's attacks on the Gaza strip were in-

defensible and he felt that Peer should sacrifice the tennis match in order to denounce her Government and its actions.

On the third day of protest, Minto and five others were arrested for disorderly behaviour, issued with trespass orders, and their loudhailers were confiscated. This was the first time that Minto had been arrested in 18 years and it came as a surprise. "I don't think we were breaching the peace," he said but nonetheless charges were laid and he appeared at the Auckland District Court.

To the artist, Minto's arrest seemed unwarranted. He hadn't been violent and he and his loud hailer wielding protestors could barely be heard within the stadium. The charge that they were causing public disruption to such a degree that required arrest is debatable. Furthermore, if Minto hadn't been protesting at such a high profile event, and therefore capturing media attention (which was precisely why he'd had chosen such a platform), would the police have taken any notice?

McAvoy wanted to respond to Minto's arrest and the confiscation of his loudhailer. Purchasing a loud hailer of his own from Trade Me, McAvoy painted it with a Palestinian flag and on the day of the trial hearing, held demonstration performances at various locations around Auckland. The trial was scheduled for April Fools Day casting doubt as to the veracity/intention of the press release, perfect for any self-respecting Trickster. But there was an unusual aspect to McAvoy's protesting style; he didn't bring along any other people. Rather than harnessing the physical power of the

people to comment on the issues at hand, McAvoy hacked his loud hailer and harnessed the technology of new media.

Wiring his loudspeaker up through an iPhone, McAvoy had people register their protests on the social networking site Twitter. People's tweets were then spoken through voice generator software and played through the iPhone and out of the loud hailer. The iPhone 'spoke' the tweets that people submitted in the hours that McAvoy held his protest. McAvoy also presented Minto's court statement to be read that day inhabiting further, a part of this political protestor.

In doing away with the need for people to be physically present, McAvoy broke this one seemingly inviolable rule about public protest. In its place, he brought to the arena something infinitely more interesting. By using social media and technology, McAvoy actually widened the circle of people who could and would become involved in a political protest. People who wouldn't normally show up weighed in on the issue, registered their discontent and showed support for John Minto.

McAvoy ultimately put the loud hailer up for sale on New Zealand auction site Trade Me and donated the proceeds to Doctors without Borders. The sale of the loud hailer also allowed further debate on the auction site's message boards, yet another interesting use of interactive media in the protest.

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STER** in your eyeholes late 2010

