

Laura the Potter

A friend of mine E-mailed me – asking me to check out this web site... www.chb-wear.com. So I did. It was a line of shirts with a really cool looking logo – and on the back is the same logo with writing above it – "Cold Hearted Bitch". It is rather small, cursive writing. I thought – Man...why sell Bitch shirts! They asked for comments about the site. So – I wanted to express my opinion (imagine!). I said..."This is a really cool logo – but I am NOT a cold hearted bitch and wouldn't wear it...and I certainly don't want to "bring that out in me" by wearing it. You don't see men going around wearing shirts that say Prick or A** Hole on them...what is up with this???"

Well...I got quite the response from Dawn...she reads my column all the time and was excited to see that I commented, but was very hurt and surprised by my remarks. She started to explain to me what CHB Wear was about...and I am here to tell you – it hit me in the heart – in a VERY big way! We have gotten together several times since then and have had many phone conversations. I never thought I would be writing about bitches! Two women started this business. Dawn and Chris. It was Dawn's idea, and Chris has a lot of business experience and the two of them make a great team. Dawn has had three very abusive boyfriends and was beaten to the point where she had to crawl on her hands and knees into the bar and then taken to the hospital for broken ribs and a punctured lung, a week later her insides exploded from ruptures to the spleen and appendix. Her X-boyfriend (name withheld to protect the little wiener) had broken up with her on Friday, and on Sunday she went for a ride behind a friend's bike. He missed her and wanted to see her, and he wasn't happy she was riding with someone else. So – he beat her up. For some reason that word "bitch" stayed with her. She was told she was a bitch if she spoke her mind, if she said no; she was a bitch if she was in a good mood or a bad mood, and a bitch in bed! How could this one word be all so encompassing? Dawn was so in love with this man, and she had to turn inward and let that anger, abuse, and the words harden her. She would ask her friends if she was a bitch. They said they see her as a strong woman who wouldn't take crap from anybody. And some would consider that bitch like behavior. Instead of running from that word – she learned to embrace it. Dawn loves men, wants to be with a man, but does not need them to define her and will never allow one to hurt her again.

Chris grew up watching her mother be the walked all over homemaker. Mom left when she was 8. She didn't know she left Chris unprotected from her abuser, her brother. She was almost 13 when she left home – she left after her bother tried to kill her Father and Chris with a shotgun. She felt she would never survive her household. She lived in No. Mpls. watching whores addicted to crack. She lived in an unfinished attic of a house over ridden by mice. She named the mice. It helped her not to get so grossed



out. Chris lied about her age and always made a decent/honest living and grew up very fast. Woman tend to have such great insight and passion that men usually can not carry. Woman continually focus their lives around others, are able to share and even feel the pain someone else is going thru. What a splendid gift God has given us!

Chris has always been an advocate of lifting woman up. Why is it some woman have such a hard time with other women? If every

woman learned how to tell another woman she was beautiful, lift her up, think of how much greater the world would be. There are so many women out there that are being abused in some way, and...honestly, I cannot even imagine it. In my lifetime no man has ever called me a bitch. My girlfriends have called me a bitch, and I've called them one too –jokingly. I had a boyfriend that after umpteen drinks would flip a switch and become Mr. Nasty...that happened twice – and bye-bye. He was verbally abusive. It seems to be a bitch, and its meaning, has really changed. It is like a new wave of feminism. Women are beginning to reclaim the word bitch, changing the meaning to celebrate the qualities of strong, capable woman. Cold Hearted – by Dawn and Chris's definition simply means – having to toughen up. Today Dawn and Chris are living very successful, productive, healthy lives. Dawn holds several teaching degrees and Chris has a solid successful track record in business. You would never know by getting to know these women that they have had such obstacles to overcome. You know the song : I'm a bitch, I'm a lover, I'm a child, I'm a mother, I'm a sinner, I'm a saint, I do not feel ashamed.

Sometimes woman go thru such painful things – that if they didn't harden their heart, they would be a puddle in a fetal position on the ground! My definition of a bitch is to be mean, spiteful, or ornery for no reason. I'm not comfortable with using that word in a positive light. I really am not a bitch – but I haven't had to endure things that abused women have. I really feel like I don't become angry unless there is a real reason to be so. I was raised to talk things out when you are angry – not yell and go ballistic. One time I was so angry I hit my X husband. I punched him hard in the chest. He simply grabbed me by the shoulders, **Continued page 18**

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