



GRASSROOTS - MY LIFE AS A WOMENS LIBBER

CUE	WHO SPEAKS?	TEXT	PICTURE CONTENT
00:10:16			Baby swimming under water
00:10:19	speaker	<p>Is it okay to start off by bragging a bit? Swedish men are number one among European men when it comes to participating in household work, such as making the dishes, clean the house and spend time with their children. That is a mere fact, the EU has published statistics on the matter. Well, Swedish men still spend only 67 per cent of the time women spend on household work, but anyhow. In Sweden, all kinds of education are open to women and they can work with whatever they choose. Even those types of jobs that used to require real macho-guys – provided that the women agree on a considerably lower pay than their male colleagues. Guys who work in sectors dominated by women, on the other hand, earn more than their female co-workers oddly enough. When you think about it, there is still much to be done when it comes to gender equality, also in Sweden. The fight goes on. The fight started for real in the 1970's when a group of women finally had enough of the massive male domination in society and started a revolution.</p>	<p>College of pictures of men doing traditionally female chores, and women working in jobs dominated by men.</p> <p>Group Eight-demo in the 70's (Archive) Red women's lib symbol inserted in picture</p>
00:11:19	Gunilla Thorgren	<p>-This is us. The gang. That's me. I think I wear...you can't see that on the photo, but I wear a green, short dress, black net stockings and then I wear high black high-heeled boots. -Yes, you don't look like stereotype man-haters. -No, I don't think we were.</p>	Gunilla Thorgren shows photo of Group Eight
00:11:46 00:12:00	speaker	<p>Gunilla Thorgren was one of the women who started the legendary women's organization Group Eight (Swed: Grupp Åtta) at the beginning of the 1970's. Group Eight forced the politicians of the 70's to fundamentally re-write their agenda. But right from the start, nothing really pointed to the fact that small-town girl Gunilla would end up a women's libber. Her mind was probably more occupied by boys than by politics.</p> <p>I was your ordinary girl, a rather good-looking girl who played all</p>	<p>Gunilla Thorgren in cut from 1971 (archive) PLATE: Gunilla Thorgren 1971</p> <p>70's hippie party with band playing (Archive)</p>

00:12:22 00:12:28	Gunilla Thorgren	-I was your ordinary girl, a rather good-looking girl who played all those games girls play and flirted, and...	Gunilla Thorgren in sync PLATE: Gunilla Thorgren, writer
00:12:34	speaker	Then something happened which opened Gunilla's eyes to the injustices.	Hippies in the 70's (Archive)
00:12:40	Gunilla Thorgren	-I had a child without being married, which was considered degrading then. People called my child "illegitimate". When I went to study, my daughter and I were not considered a family, which meant that I was not qualified for a study loan that I could live on, so I had to work and study and I had no day-care for my daughter, all at the same time.	Gunilla Thorgren in picture Short cut of mother putting baby to bed (Archive) Gunilla Thorgren in picture
00:13:15	song by Eva Aulén	Before you know it you get knocked up, then you just wander about f looking like a soufflé.	Mother on city street with baby carriage (Archive)
00:13:25	speaker	What did the Sweden of Gunilla's new-born child look like? The Social-Democrats had run the country for 40 consecutive years. Major social reforms had been implemented, including public health insurance, four weeks' paid holidays and a mother's allowance. The shortage of housing was to be taken care of by the so-called "million programme". The programme stipulated that 100,000 new flats should be built each year. The result was loads of not so very chic high-rise buildings emerging from fields in the outskirts of towns. The Social-Democrats were more than pleased with the programme. The injustices perceived by Gunilla and her sisters in misfortune were not prioritized among the things that needed to be improved.	Archive shoots of people in tram, high-rise building area Politicians have a meeting (Archive) Olof Palme dances with his wife (Archive)
00:14:13	song	Sleeping Beauty took a Valium in order to mitigate her pain.	Women with baby carriages in high-rise apartment area (
00:14:25	Gunilla Thorgren	People said that the welfare-state was complete, but my life situation was more or less unbearable. It was not just my situation, but the situation of many other women as well.	Gunilla Thorgren
00:14:39	speaker	Gunilla joined the left-wing movement. She believed that class struggle would automatically liberate women. It was said that there would be no oppression of women in Socialist society. But she was disappointed. She soon realised that left-wing guys were like any other guys. They wanted the women to take care of the kids and make sandwiches for them while they ere out on the barricades.	Left-wing demos in the 70's (Archive)

		make statements for them, make they sit out on the sidewalks.	
00:15:03	Gunilla Thorgren	-They were awful. There was no difference between being in a left-wing or a right-wing organization; we had to make the coffee wherever we went.	Gunilla Thorgren
00:15:15	speaker	Gunilla and her friends realized that if there was to be any changes, they had to make them themselves. They started a study circle in which they studied women's history and where they enthused each other. Gradually, the study circle became an action group.	Women having a meeting around a table (Archive) Women distributing flyers to Stockholmers 1970 (Archive)
00:15:31	reporter in a news clip (Archive)	This autumn has seen the foundation of a political women's organization, called Group Eight. At first, the group consisted of eight members from different women's organizations, but the number of members has grown. The group has written down a manifesto and it is currently studying women in history and analyzing the situation of women in the light of the economic system. The group is also planning campaigns, such as the one we see here, as the group is out distributing flyers with info about their activities.	PLATE: National Swedish TV news 1970 Women distributing flyers
00:15:37			
00:15:52	Gunilla Thorgren	We pinned this kind of A4 posters, which we had made ourselves, all over Stockholm with words like these: "Woman. Do you feel oppressed? Do you want to make a difference? Come to a meeting at the Stockholm City Museum." This was in June and women gushed forth into the museum.	Gunilla Thorgren Group Eight-demos (Archive)
00:16:24	speaker	The movement grew explosively. Thousands, even tens of thousands of women joined in. Meetings and demonstrations were held all over Sweden. A common way of protesting was to heckle speakers. Group Eight-women went in to anti-abortion meetings and other meetings that they believed were patriarchal and anti-feminist. They disrupted the order and booed the men speaking.	More Group Eight-demos (Archive)
00:16:50	debate on low wages- man being contradicted by women	Wait a minute! You always dominate debates through sophisticated ways of expressing yourselves. We form women's organizations since we will never be able to assert ourselves in this kind of debates until we have gathered arguments and have had debating practice. And that's why it now has to be on conditions as dreary as these.	Pictures from debate about low wages where Group Eight debate with a male trade-union rep PLATE: Debating low wages 1971 (Archive)
00:16:52			

00:17:13	Gunilla Thorgren	-This...do we use words to signify the same things for women and for men? This is a way of showing how women are being treated constantly. Take the word "stubborn" for example, if a man is stubborn he is strong-willed, but a stubborn woman is just nagging. And this was very common: "Politically active". Then he is aware, whereas she is hysterical. People told us we were hysterical all the time.	Gunilla Thorgren shows a poster
00:17:41	Gunilla Thorgren	-We were hated by everybody. By people from left to right, people of all political opinions.	Gunilla Thorgren sitting in picture
00:17:49	Gunilla Thorgren	I haven't seen these. What is this? It's the history of women.	Gunilla Thorgren shows another poster
00:17:56	interviewer	-How did people look upon you then?	Gunilla Thorgren (sitting)
00:17:57	Gunilla Thorgren	-Women who want to change things and who make demands are always picked at. We were not real women. We were ugly, and couldn't find any men. We were sexually frustrated. We were bad mothers, and should not be allowed to have children, and we wanted to shatter the family. Yes, it was all of that.	Gunilla Thorgren (sitting)
00:18:26	speaker	No. The tiresome Group Eight-women didn't match up to the image of what a woman should be like.	Group Eight-women with placards (Archive)
00:18:32	Siv Inger Svensson sings	I want somebody to love, I want to hold his hand. Someone who would row the boat ashore. Someone who could share my pains and joys each and every day, he's the man I want.	Fashion pics showing female ideal of the time (Archive) Young woman singing leaning against a tree (Archive)
00:18:46			PLATE: Siv-Inger Svensson 1971
00:18:56	speaker	The traditional housewife became the movement's prime symbol for the oppression of women. She led her miserable life in a million programme flat, taking pills and constantly waiting for the husband to come home and for her life to start.	Women with baby carriages, depressed woman smoking, looking out a window (Archive)

00:19:13	Dialogue from TV play in which couple have supper		
00:19:23		<p>What food have you prepared? -Beef stew. -Damn! Great. -How did it taste? -Well, it was damned good. It's time for TV and a smoke. Thanks for dinner. -Why don't you at least put your plate into the washer? -I've worked all day. -So have I. -Yeah, but it's a different thing being at home all day.</p>	<p>Couple having supper (Archive)</p> <p>PLATE: from Swedish TV play 1973</p>
00:19:42	Gunilla Thorgren	<p>Group Eight was very much a youth movement with young students and young mothers. It became a cultural movement.</p>	Gunilla Thorgren
00:19:55	speaker	<p>A new kind of women's culture emerged including all-female rock bands, cabarets and plays. All of it had been created by women with the focus on women's lives.</p>	Pictures from women's plays and rehearsal pics
00:20:06	Line from a rehearsal of a women's play	<p>-That's the last time I read the lonely-hearts column!</p>	Line from a rehearsal of a women's play (Archive)
00:20:09	Woman sings (from a women's cabaret)	<p>I've heard that women are supposed to be presentable, sexy, witty and dreadfully amiable. Chubby, sweet, silent and stupid. But most of all, we should keep our mouths shut.</p>	Close up on woman singing
00:20:22			PLATE: Exhibition of art made by women
00:20:41	Gunilla Thorgren	<p>-The number of female writers and graphic artists sky-rocketed. We used to have a very limited number of female photographers and sculptors and such. Women had to fight real hard, and still they weren't taken seriously. That's what it was...they got this giant public since we were so hungry to see our own lives depicted and narrated. This is Anna Sjö Dahl. It's a travesty on Munch's "The Scream". Fantastic. It's from the time when she gave birth to her son and she suffered from a post-delivery psychosis. And then she painted this one. Ever since, I love her work.</p>	<p>Gunilla Thorgren enters a museum showing an exhibition of art by woman artists pictures of art objects Gunilla watching art while narrating</p>

00:21:50	Feminist fight song	Liberation is close. It is now time...	demonstration with balloons floating up in the air
00:21:57	speaker	Eventually, the loud protests had an effect. The established political parties had to take women's issues seriously as they faced the threat of losing voters.	
00:22:08	Gunilla Thorgren	-We were used in a positive way by Social-Democrat and Left Party women who said: "Look, we're going to lose a whole generation of young people if we don't take action." Slowly, due to the fact that they were forced to it, Social-Democrats gathered together and came up with the large family programme which would become the foundation for all of Sweden's work for equal opportunities between the sexes.	Gunilla Thorgren in picture Pics of Olof and Lisbeth Palme demonstrating Olof Palme demonstrating
00:22:42	news reporter in old news feature	From 1974 on, men who become fathers will be given the opportunity to receive an allowance for taking care of their new-born child.	Female news reporter (Archive)
00:22:52	two men answer survey questions	Would you consider staying at home with your child now? -Yes, it sounds great. -Yes, of course. I suppose I just have to learn how to use the washing-machine.	Close-up on men on the street being interviewed (Archive)
00:23:01	Male voice in info-film about washing machines	Just press a certain number of buttons. Then you do not have to worry about the wash until it is time to hang the clothes to dry.	pictures of old washing-machine (Archive)
00:23:07	Female voice in info movie	I work full-time. In the morning, I bring Putte to the day-care centre. We have arranged for my boyfriend to work half-time. He picks Putte up at noon every day.	Long-haired man with a fur entering a day-care centre and then playing with the kids (Archive)
00:23:10		This is how it looked when a Swedish man on paternity leave picked	PLATE: From a public propaganda film boosting paternity

00:23:19	speaker	This is how it looked when a Swedish man on paternity leave picked up his child at the daycare centre, at least according to a State-financed ad campaign. The reforms, demanded by women's organizations, were slowly coming true. The one after the other...	
00:23:36	Gunilla Thorgren	It was all about child-care, legal abortion, labour-market issues, education and housing. More or less all of our demands have been implemented to this day, and even more so. I often say that the Swedish woman went from being dependent on her man to being dependent on the State. We have a kind of State feminism in Sweden, and I am a firm believer of that system.	Gunilla Thorgren in picture Pictrure from Swedish parliament, women's lib symbol inserted in picture
00:24:20	speaker	The 1970's was also the decade of free love. In some circles it was regarded as a good political deed to have sex with many different partners. We were supposed to free ourselves, not only from the chains of capitalism, but also from the chains of traditional sexual morals. Pornography was legalized in Sweden in 1971 and the Swedish sin became a well-known concept. The reputation of Swedish sex education films spread throughout the world. More folksy films were also famous, such as those shown at places like this...	People cuddling, people having group sex, porn movie posters, people having sexual intercourse
00:24:49	white-clad doctor from "Language of Love"	And one wanted to register, with the help of colour film, all the changes that take place in one's body and particularly in the sexual organs during intercourse.	Scientist in white overalls discussing the movie "Language of Love"
00:24:51	"Language of Love"		PLATE: From the movie "Language of Love"
00:25:01	speaker	More folksy films were also famous, such as those shown at places like this...	pictures from a street with porn shops in Stockholm couple having sex on a hayloft woman caressing a sausage PLATE: From the movie "Come Blow the Horn"
00:25:11			
00:25:18	speaker	Another Group Eight-woman who has been there from the start is Louise Waldén. She claims that legalization of pornography, women's liberation and the sexual revolution were seen as interconnected in the beginning.	strippers on a stage archive pictures of Louise Waldén PLATE: Louise Waldén, gender studies researcher
00:25:35			Louise Waldén waters plants
00:25:18	Louise Waldén	At this time we talked about sexual liberation and non-committal sex and the lot. From the beginning and mid-60's I just regarded it as liberating. I don't remember ever thinking that there could be issues regarding oppression towards women or other negative aspects. I just thought it was silly that pornography was not allowed. We really didn't discuss those issues very much. It took some time even before	Louise Waldén being interviewed strippers and viewers (Archive) News headlines Louise in picture Louise fills up watering can

		didn't discuss those issues very much. It took some time even before we stated to discuss the rape issue. We were focused on what we believed to be political issues: salaries, legislation, day-care issues. Those things were in our focus.	Louise in picture
00:26:21	interviewer	Is this something you believe you should have emphasized more strongly at the time?	Louise walks about watering plants Louise in picture
00:26:26	Louise Waldén	-Yes and no. You are always kind of encapsulated in your own time and we have very big issues that are crucial right now. I am surprised that we didn't grab them then.	
00:26:40	speaker	The porn business grew and was quickly commercialized and it became one of the main enemies of the woman's liberation movement. Women put more and more effort into fighting porn magazines, profiteers from porn and sex trafficking.	Pics from porn shops where Group Eight has sprayed and postered flyers Ads with naked girl having been sprayed over (Archive)
00:26:54	Day-care center employee talking to kids about porn mags	Why do you think there are lots of naked girls in the magazines, Fia? -It's just foolish. Those who think that they should have naked girls, those who make them, they make money from it. -So that those who make the magazines make money from the buyers? -Yes.	Day-care centre employee with kid in her lap (Archive)
00:27:24	speaker	The years went by and from the mid-70's on, the left-wing surge slowly subsided. We weren't as firm as we used to be in our opinion that if we just fought together, we could change the world. Words like "socialism" and "collectivism" started to feel worn-out and outdated. The spirit of the time was to focus on yourself, on your body and your career.	ABBA sings Waterloo punk rockers in town people doing aerobics male model in a suit (Archive)
00:27:49	bawling yuppies of the 80's	I want to get rich. I want to become a millionaire. Yes, a millionaire.	singer and bawling crowd stock market yuppies (Archive)
00:27:56	speaker	The sisterhood of Group Eight had also lost some of its attraction.	Ladies on stationary bikes
00:28:00	reporter in front of locked door	Group Eight and the journal "Kvinnobulletinen" is currently leading a languishing life here at Snickarbacken 10 in Stockholm. The door is locked.	News reporter in front of locked door
00:28:02			PLATE: From Swedish TV 1987

00:28:15

speaker

The 70's reform with the aim of making more fathers stay home with their children had not been as successful as many had hoped. Paternity leave still made up only a few percent of total parental leave.

men on city streets carrying briefcases

00:28:25

industry workers being interviewed by female reporter

Have you ever been on paternity leave?
-Yes, I have.
-For how long?
-Two weeks after our child was born.
-Could you imagine sharing the childcare period with your wife?
-No, I wouldn't do that.
-Why?
-I'm not the kind of person who would manage that.
-Could you imagine staying at home for four months, for example?
-I don't think so.
-Why is that?
-I wouldn't have the energy to do it.
-But is it fair to take for granted that your wife would have the energy?
-No, but she is more interested in that kind of stuff.
-I feel a bit handicapped when it comes to changing diapers, and there are reasons for that.
-What reasons?
-To be frank, it's a rather messy job.

industry workers in overalls

00:29:10

speaker

But the 1990's saw a comeback of feminism, but in a different form, far away from flower power. Men's violence against women had

modern feminists in self-defence course

00:29:47		<p>far away from flower power. Men's violence against women had become a crucial issue. Modern feminists had studied gender studies at the university and used concepts such as gender power hierarchy, gender mainstreaming and queer theory. The last concept implies that you believe that a person's gender is not so much innate as something humans learn from society and culture.</p> <p>In the course of time, discrimination against homosexuals, bisexuals and trans-gender people has become embedded into feminism. Feminists believe this type of discrimination is also the result of patriarchal oppression.</p>	<p>marching with torches and banderols outdoor meeting at Sergels Torg Lesbian feminists kissing</p>
00:29:56	speaker	<p>What does Gunilla Thorgren and her friends say about the new feminism?</p>	<p>Gunilla Thorgren admires statue representing a first mother Exhibition of art made by women</p>
00:30:00	Gunilla Thorgren	<p>-I think it's wonderful. It's just like life. Much like what the women's liberation movement was all about.</p>	
00:30:09	interviewer	<p>-At that time?</p>	
00:30:10	Gunilla Thorgren	<p>-Yes, at that time. There was a longing for something with life in it, for sensuality, for... there was a certain happiness embedded in it all. We had a certain positive outlook on life.</p>	
00:30:24	interviewer	<p>-Is there too little of that today?</p>	
00:30:42	Radical Cheerleader performs cheer	<p>-Yes, I think they miss that, and that's our fault. After all, they are our daughters.</p>	
00:30:45		<p>You Johns out there, you'd better be aware. Pirata RC chicks have planned a coup We will cut the dick off all of you And don't you worry, we get more and more.</p>	<p>Black-clad girls dancing and chanting</p>
			<p>PLATE: Feminist group "Radical Cheerleaders"</p>

		And don't you worry, we get more and more.	
00:30:55	speaker	Maja Embrink is a member of the feminist group "Radical Cheerleaders". Her friend Mika has studied gender studies and they are both influenced by the new way of looking at gender equality.	Two young girls walking towards the camera
00:31:08	interviewer	-Have you heard about Group Eight?	Two girls sitting on a wall
00:31:10 00:31:15	Mika Ojens	-Yeah. I have this image in my mind of angry hippie girls screaming "Burn your bras!" each with a kid on her arm and they sit about having fortifying group discussions and such.	short-haired girl speaking PLATE: Mika Ojens, 20
00:31:32 00:31:43	Maja Embrink	-I connect the group with the child-care issue. A prejudice I have against the feminism of the 70's, and it doesn't really have to be true, is that there was more of a biologicistic touch then, more of a distinctive kind of feminism. Sometimes when you see art from that period, from the 70's, you see some kind of first mother as the ideal.	blond girl speaking PLATE: Maja Embrink, 22
00:32:03	Mika Ojens	-I don't think feminists of today are as fascinated by womanliness as something sacred, I would like to bring it down to earth a bit, but sure, we are different. Women and men are different, but the difference is not the result of some kind of innate spirit, but because of the fact that we have been taught to behave in certain ways and continue to reinforce it all the time.	short-haired girl in close-up speaking
00:32:28	interviewer	-Can you identify yourself with the things today's feminism stands for?	Gunilla Thorgren in picture
00:32:33	Gunilla Thorgren	-No. I think they are far too academic. They don't show any solidarity what so ever to the most vulnerable women. Immigrant women often have a hard time in Sweden, women working in the public sector, single mothers. Those you hear, those who take part in debates are often academic women who studied gender studies for say one, two or three years, but it's hard to really find out what they	

		pay one, two or three years, but it's hard to really find out what they want to achieve. They have a very individualistic approach, and I believe in collective methods.	
00:33:20	interviewer	-Do you believe that the current feminism is more aggressive? That it has a more aggressive approach?	Blond girl in close-up listens to question
00:33:25	Maja Embrink	-Some groups may have a more aggressive approach, due to the fact that society has become more extreme and aggressive in other ways.	Blond girl speaking
00:33:34	Cheer-leading group	Show your cunt! Show your tits! We want to see you raise your fist! You are hot and super cool, The strongest creature in the world!	Black-clad girls dancing and chanting
00:33:45	speaker	It was maybe easier in Gunilla's time. Then feminists tried to influence the people in power in order to achieve concrete political goals. Today, it is harder to identify and define the enemy. It's all about changing structures.	Group Eight-girls singing in meeting in 70's
00:34:05	instrumental music	Instrumental music	Collage with pictures showing dummies, ads, nude pictures from magazines and the Internet
00:34:27	girl with a megaphone in the collage	What a fucked-up world we live in!	
00:34:31	anti-porn demo with megaphone	Pornography was created by capitalism, which has turned everything to commodities and which oppresses women.	Young people with banderolls in anti-porn demo
00:34:38	Louise Waldén	...	
		-When I speak to girls born in the 80's and 90's they often want to hear about how it used to be and what we used to do then. They are very interested. They say that they are jealous of the fact that there is no such ideological coherence today, but rather many diverse groups. We worked as a collective, and sisterhood meant a lot to us. I miss that, but that will maybe come back.	girls practising self-defence Louise Walden in picture Louise Walden waters plants
00:35:03	speaker	Louise and Gunilla have both left the battlefield a long time ago. Gunilla now works as a writer. She thought a lot about how the things that she and her friends achieved in the 70's have influenced the young grown-ups of today. Her play "The Wardrobe" deals with that question.	Gunilla Thorgren writes on her computer Close-up on book cover

		the young grown-ups of today. Her play "The Wardrobe" deals with that question.	Actors on a stage
00:35:20	Gunilla Thorgren	-What happens to people? The children, who are now grown-ups and are supposed to reap the fruits of their mothers' struggles. And what do they think about the women's lib movement and what happened to it?	Gunilla Thorgren watching rehearsal of play Actors on a stage
00:35:36	line from the play "The Wardrobe"	No, you believe that the world looks like it did in the 70's, after all those reforms. I will tell you that that's not of much help to me now, mum. You and your fellows have seen to it that each family needs two breadwinners. I have nothing against it, I don't say that, it's just so hard to make both ends meet.	female actor on stage
00:35:40			PLATE: From the play "The Wardrobe" by Gunilla Thorgren
00:35:55	Gunilla Thorgren	The ruthless exploitation of people on the labour market makes many people succumb to stress. And women are the ones who are most severely affected.	Gunilla Thorgren in picture actors
00:36:10	Line from the play "The Wardrobe"	No, the truth about your famous struggle is that every woman must work like a full-grown man and still be the same delightful, horny woman.	female actor on stage at the square Sergels Torg
00:36:21	interviewer	-Do you feel any sisterhood with the feminists of today?	Gunilla Thorgren in picture
00:36:26	Gunilla Thorgren	-Absolutely. I look upon them with much love and sometimes with irritation and impatience. But they must fight their battle in their way.	Young people in a mass meeting
00:36:52	Girl with a microphone in a mass meeting	-Go on fighting! There are still idiotic men who try to oppress you!	Tjej med mikrofon

-Go on fighting! There are still furious men who try to oppress you!

Radical Cheerleaders performs, audience cheers

00:37:12

radio voice

-This feminist thing has gone too far. Women don't want to take care of household work and children anymore. They don't fit into the labour-market either, they often call in sick because of pure laziness. Swedish men have become far too namby-pamby and they now have to wait on the ladies. No, you go and get yourself a real woman from Thailand who knows how to take care of men, children and a household, and then you won't have to deal with the feminist bitches who just want to make life a hell for everybody, says Björn Forsman of Östertälje.

collage of dancing and applauding
young people in a mass meeting

00:37:15

PLATE: Listeners state their opinions in radio programme

(Archive)

?)

1t women

y leave

je of Love"

ren

