

The Band Wagon[©]

Todos lo hacen

Casey Bell

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The Bandwagon
Todos lo hacen

MICHAEL: Any descent
SARAH: Hispanic Descent (or any)
JACOB: Caucasian
EVE: Caucasian (or any)
JEREMIAH: Hispanic Descent
DAVID: Asian Descent
RUTH: Black Descent
ESTHER: Asian Descent (or any)
MATTHEW: Black Descent

ALL: *Jump on the wagon, (Bandwagon) Jump on the wagon, (Bandwagon) Jump on the wagon, Jump on the wagon (Bandwagon). If you jump on the wagon; you gonna fall fast. Too many people on the wagon gonna make it fall over.*

MICHAEL: *Let's have a smoke so we can be cool.*

SARAH: *Let's have a beer together and act like fools.*

JACOB: *Go on and sag those pants and show your underwear.*

EVE: *Come on let's have some sex, I'm clean I swear.*

JEREMIAH: *Come, let's sniff some stuff and get so high.*

DAVID: *Come one let's jump off a bridge and don't ask me why.*

RUTH: *Peer pressure's got me acting like a person I've never met*

ESTHER: *Peer pressure got me doing things that I know I'll regret.*

MATTHEW: *It's time to follow, follow, follow, follow, the bandwagon.*

ALL: *Jump on the wagon, (Bandwagon) Jump on the wagon, (Bandwagon) Jump on the wagon, Jump on the wagon (Bandwagon). If you jump on the wagon; you gonna fall fast. Too many people on the wagon gonna make it fall over.*

MICHAEL: When I was in fifth grade there was a week long special section of learning. Not learning our abc's or 123's. We weren't trying to figure out "A" if "B" was 3 and "C" was 10. No my dear they didn't teach us that "I" comes before "E" except after "C". They wasn't teaching anything about Columbus or Martin King, Jr. they weren't even talking to us about that touchy subject sexual education, no my dear this week long learning was all about the Bandwagon. You remember the talk about the bandwagon?

JEREMIAH: Oh, I remember them.

MICHAEL: The bandwagon is a metaphor for how we in life are not supposed to act. They told us that the bandwagon was wrong all things evil and that you should avoid it at all costs. Don't do what everyone else is doing, don't go along with your friends if they're doing wrong.

Doesn't matter how popular smoking is, don't you follow that bandwagon. And the drugs and the gangs, don't you follow that bandwagon either; those wagons will lead you straight to hell. It will lead you to the road of nowhere. And if there was such a thing as a psychic I am sure they would have forewarned us not to follow the bandwagon of sagging our pants below our waist. So many bandwagon's so little time to follow them all, but wait we were not to follow them at all. We were supposed to go the other way, be an individual, be a different soul from everyone else.

ESTHER: They called those people geeks.

MICHAEL: That's what they taught us in that week long learning session. Even our parent's chipped in and asked us well, if your friend's jumped off a bridge, would you?

DAVID: If I had a bungee cord I would.

MICHAEL: Well, most would jump of the bridge with or without the bungee cord; simply because in life people care more about other people accepting them rather than them just accepting themselves.

ESTHER: *Everyone is doing it. Should I do it too?*

SARAH: *Todos lo hacen. ¿Qué debo hacer demasiado*

JACOB: *Should I follow that wagon? ¿Debería seguir el carro*

DAVID: *Or should I find my own way and find myself alone?*

RUTH: The bandwagon. It always looks like the right choice at the time of your decision making. So it is always difficult to make the bold choice of rejecting the wagon.

ALL: *The Bandwagon; Todos lo hacen. El Bandwagon; Everyone is doing it.*

MICHAEL: Bandwagons. Everyone hates to love to follow them.

SARAH: Not everyone cares to follow them. There are those who have made the decision time and time again to go the opposite way of that dirty old bandwagon. You won't find that many,

but I promise you if you search high enough and look low enough and travel wide enough you will make the discovery that there are a hand full of those who have said good-bye to the bandwagon.

RUTH: Congratulations on your high school graduation.

JACOB: Thank you.

RUTH: So, what college are you attending? What are you majoring in?

JACOB: I'm not going to college.

RUTH: Why not? You cannot get a job without a degree and you need a job. Besides you need to further your education. High school is not enough.

JACOB: School is not the only place to further my education and it is not the only way to get a job.

RUTH: You need to go to college. Everyone knows you go to college after high school. Everyone does it.

JACOB: I'm not going to follow that school bandwagon. Yes I will graduate high school, but who's to say I need to go to college. Well, you need to get an education, my momma says. You need to better yourself my daddy says. Well, I do believe in education, but the one thing everyone forgets is that college is not the only way to get an education. Going to college for four years to get a degree in "whatever" is just another bandwagon. Many people have succeeded past success without a college degree. Education is not bound to the four walls that is college. Education is found at work, on the job, in mistakes, volunteering, and by simply living life. Hell, I can even go to the library and educate myself. Didn't you realize a large percentage of education comes from books? They come from books that I can get anywhere. Not just college. I do not have to go to college to receive or gain education. I can get myself a job work my way to the top and takeover the place if I please without a college degree. Hell, I can even save enough money to open my own business and be the boss of three employees, me, myself, and I. I don't need college for that. Everyone around me looks down at me because I decided to not follow the bandwagon that is college. Well, I refuse to pay thousands upon

thousands of dollars just to get a degree, than get a job and work there for forty years retire at 60, move to Florida and live off my retirement fund. I refuse to sit around and do nothing after forty years of work. That's not me. I am more than a retiree. Besides I do not find any joy in getting paid from the government. A government that is nothing but a bunch of lying buzzards who steal from you. No siree, I will not allow some government dictate to me how much money I will receive in a month, in a week, or even in a day. I am going to get the education I need to succeed where I need to be and live a long life of work and I do not have to submit myself to college to do so. Now, don't get me wrong college is a great idea for those who need it, but I don't need it. Yes my dear education is needed by every soul, but school is not the only place to receive a proper education so therefore school is not for everyone. So, no I will not follow the bandwagon that is school.

JEREMIAH: Puff, puff your life away. This addiction can kill you today.

EVE: In the school halls and the bathroom stalls there you stand just a puffing away. Allowing some plant, some plant that had no power to stop from being picked; tell you when to get up and smoke it. Trying your best to get in with the in crowd, forgetting everything you were taught about the dangers of smoking. But at the moment all you cared about was trying your best to do what everyone else was doing. You were just curious you say. There's nothing wrong with being curious, but sometimes you have to tell your curiosity to leave you alone. Tell it to sit in the back seat and shut up. Here you are offering me that cancer stick and try to convince me to try it just once. Letting me know all the cool people do it. Well, if this is the way to be cool I'd rather be square, nerdy, out of style, or whatever. Call me whatever you like, but I refuse to follow that stank bandwagon of smoking. You see I love me and I want me to live a long time and I will not cause any harm to myself just so I can fit in. And as unique as I am I never will fit in don't want to fit in and have no reason to fit in. So take the lighter and that cigarette and give it to someone else. And make sure when you come around me you are not smoking. Yes, I know you have the freedom to practice your habits, but I have the

freedom to not practice them and you being around me celebrating your freedom is destroying my freedom. I don't care for that bandwagon so don't come around here trying to convince me that one time won't hurt. Yeah, I know misery loves company, but misery find another company because I am not it. No, I'm sorry, but I will not follow that bandwagon.

ESTHER: *Here comes the groom all dress in doom.*

SARAH: Hey Jeremiah. Did you get married yet?

JEREMIAH: No.

SARAH: Why not?

JEREMIAH: I'm not ready to get in a relationship.

SARAH: Well, what's the hold up? You are thirty years old.

JEREMIAH: Yeah, so what, I'm thirty years old and still single. There is nothing wrong with that. I am just not ready. It doesn't mean I'm gay or a whore who can't commit. It just means I am smart enough to wait. Who created the stupid rule that by thirty you should have a wife and 2.5 children, and cat and a dog? That may work for you, but I am not you. I am me and me says I need more time to see who me is. I need time to discover the real me. Not the son, or the brother, not the cousin or the nephew, not the friend, or the student, but the me I can never be because I am always around people who have their identity for me and I must act accordingly. I need to figure out what I really want to do in life, not what my parent's want for me and not what society wants for me, because society has never been right with their rules for life. I don't need to date. I want to be single and enjoy every minute of my singleness. And being alone does not mean being lonely. There are thousands of people in the world surrounded by people every day and still feeling lonely. Loneliness is a choice and so is single hood and I choose to be single, but not lonely. Just because you rushed into marriage had your 2.5 children and now regret the last ten years of your life making your children be who you could never be because you were too busy listening to that damn bandwagon that you needed to get married and have children by a certain age. But you never got the chance to be you. There is nothing wrong

with being a spouse and a parent, but you should know who you are before you try being that. I will not follow the bandwagon of getting married just because they say you're supposed to. And who the hell is they? Do they have a name? I don't know who they are, but they have been wrong for the past ten years. Because if you haven't noticed abortion and the divorce rate has sky rocketed so apparently people are committing to a situation that they were never ready for. And why? Because some damn bandwagon told them they had to. Well I will not follow that bandwagon. There is nothing wrong with me using the patience God Himself gave me.

MATTHEW: *Bang, bang, shoot 'em dead, kill 'em down, wave your signs, and paint your tag. And if they should come to you, kill 'em dead and take everything they got.*

DAVID: I will not follow your bandwagon of ignorance to a road that leads to a dead end that is gangs. You wave your gang signs in the air proud that you're apart of a group. A group of what? A group of nothings. What is it that you hate so much about yourself that you'd rather let some nobody's make you feel better simply because you have someone to be with. What do they have that you don't have for yourself? No one can give you the real feeling of comfort of being accepted except yourself. Do you realize how dumb you are for joining a gang? A gang of Judases who don't give a damn whether you died or lived because if they cared they would never knowingly put you in dangers way. All those guns and drugs and violence. Anyone who would knowingly subject you to that can never care for you. They are nothing but a gang of ignorant fools who tag territories of land that you do not own, cannot own and will never own. Always in the neighborhoods where you wouldn't know the first thing about owning a home let alone territory of land. You do that craziness, but I will not follow that bandwagon. It only leads to evil, and evil will always lead to destruction and death. And I care too much about my life to put myself in such a dangerous position where destruction and death is welcomed to me. You have your gangs. I don't need it. I have me and that's all I need.

SARAH: A dry martini always gets me going.

MICHAEL: You want a drink, ma'am? I'll mix it just for you.

RUTH: No thank you. I don't want any liquor.

MICHAEL: Come on, you'll have a lot more fun if you do.

RUTH: No thank you I don't drink. Why, you ask, because I like me the way I am. You drink that stuff and you get all drunk and buzzed and everything else that is not you. I don't need a strong drink to change me into someone I am not, because I like me the way I am. I don't need liquor to make me act like some nigger. I like me just the way I am. I don't need beer, wine, or champagne to have fun, because I can create fun all by myself. You see I love me the way I am and knowing the love I have for me brings joy to me. That joy brings me happiness and that happiness produces fun for me. So I don't need that stuff because I like me just the way I am. I don't need strong drank, that vodka, gin, brandy, whisky, I don't need it. Because I like me just the way I am. No I don't think I am better than you, but ask yourself what is it about you that you hate so much that you would allow a liquid that can't even sustain itself without a bottle or glass change you into a person that is not you? Don't you like you for you? Or is that liquid the only means of helping you forget that hatred that is so deep inside of you for you. I like the way I am I don't need anything altering me from me. I like me the way I am I don't need any added spirits to fill me up and make me become a whole new person who in the end is just a creation I hate more than me myself. You see I like me the way I am. So I don't need to follow that bandwagon of liquor. No, my dear there is nothing wrong with liquor, but too much of anything is always a bad thing. When that liquor begins to control you better than a person can then you have to ask yourself, is this bandwagon worth following? I don't need that bandwagon because I love me just the way I am.

JACOB: One pill makes you fly, the other brings you down. One pill makes you high and the other makes you low. One pill makes you sweet and one makes you sour. One pill makes you laugh and another makes you cry. One pill makes you horny and the other makes you frigid. One pill makes you happy, and another makes you sad.

ESTHER: My momma was a drug addict and it killed her. And my daddy is living with aids thanks to those needles. Those dirty old needles. And you have the audacity to ask me to try some. Are you stupidly crazy? I don't need that bandwagon of drugs. My parents tried it for me and it showed me they lead straight to hell. And I cannot be in heat for too long so no thank you; you can keep your bandwagon. You see I like my life on earth. No, it's not the best life, but it's good enough for me to stay here on earth rather than to fly to the sky getting high on some plant that can't even work without me. This thing can't speak, hear, see, touch, taste, or smell, and yet you let it tell you what to speak, hear, see, touch, taste, and smell. No, thank you I don't need that bandwagon. I respect my life on earth I don't need to be lifted to the skies for just a while and then slammed back down to earth realizing the hell I tried to leave. Instead I am going to figure out a way to get rid of this hell so I can live peacefully on earth. No thank you I don't need that bandwagon you can keep it to yourself.

MICHAEL: Hi. How are you?

MATTHEW: I am doing fine.

MICHAEL: Why are you talking like that?

MATTHEW: Talking like what?

MICHAEL: Talking like you're white. You need to talk like you're black. Don't you listen to rap?

MATTHEW: No, I do not listen to rap, I do not play basketball and I do not speak like I dropped out of school at the age of six, but I am still black. I may not dance with rhythm or throw the football that well, but I am still black. I am black simply because God saw it fit to add some extra color on my skin. To me it's a blessing, because he saw fit to give me more than you. To me I feel like I did something right something special for him to say, Matthew, let me give you some more pigment. I am black because my skin says so. I do not sag and bag my pants to the ground so everyone can see the underwear I chose to wear today, but I am still black. I don't watch BET and I

don't read Essence, Jet, or Ebony, but I am still black. I am black because my skin says so. My skin has nothing to do with me. My skin can never define or identify me as a person or a character it can only describe me as a noun, but it cannot tell you who I am. I am black because my skin says so. My skin color does not dictate to me to listen to rap and not rock or listen to jazz and not country, it is just the color of my skin. It is not the taste of my music or the taste in my fashion. It is just my skin. My skin that protects my insides; who you will never see if all you see is the skin. Whether or not I voted for Obama can never define me as a black person. My skin color will never define me as a republican or democrat. I am black because my skin says I am. So excuse me if I decide to ditch your bandwagon of blackness and create my own. Because I am not my skin, my skin just covers me. It covers the me you never met because all you saw was my skin. The skin that describes me, but can never define me. I am black because my skin says so. Not because of my attitude or the music I listen to or the way I walk, the way I talk, the way I dress, or the way I impress. My skin says I am black and that's all. You can keep your bandwagon of blackness. I will not follow it.

DAVID: I am Asian because my parent's are Asian. I did not get to choose my heritage, but I do get to choose my behavior. I get to choose my lifestyles, my character, my career; my entire life is my chose. I do not have to act Asian for you to accept me. I become me on my own terms; I do not have to follow the bandwagon of Asianism. I do not have to eat Chinese food or take yoga or become a Buddhist, or even take karate. Those are all bandwagon tools you need for me to follow so you feel safe with your identity of an Asian person. I will not follow the bandwagon for you. My skin color, heritage, or cultural background may identify me, but if it does not who the hell cares?

JEREMIAH: I don't speak Spanish, I don't do tacos, and I am legal damn it. Arizona you can come after me all you want because I have my papers. No, I'm not offended. I have just realized that we are in a state of following bandwagons and believing that these wagons can only speak the truth when indeed they speak more lies than truths. I am not listening to the mambo and I cannot do the

tango. Do not identify me with every Spanish person because I am not every Spanish person I am me. Me who just happens to have skin that lets you know I am Hispanic, but it can never tell you anything else about my life. Don't make me jump on to a bandwagon of burritos, flamenco, and laborers, because we do not all fit that wagon picture of yours. Don't see my skin learn how to see me. Get rid of that bandwagon.

JACOB: Get rid of that bandwagon. Just because I am white it does not mean I am white trash. It does not mean I am a racist ready to lynch a ni-

MATTHEW: Don't you say it.

JACOB: Negro. It doesn't mean I will vote republican, it doesn't mean I want Obama to fail. Just because I am white it doesn't mean anything other than the fact that God made the decision to create me with out pigment in my skin. And that fact does not mean I am any less than all those who have pigment and it sure as hell, does not make me any more. My skin says I am white, but my character, my decisions, my attitude, my music, my sports, my fashion, cannot tell me I am white. I am white because I have no pigment in my skin and that is the only reason I am white. Don't put me in your bandwagon of what I am supposed to do and be. If I decide to sag my pants I will. If I want to practice Buddhism I will, if I want to dance the salsa, I will. Hell, I might even try to help my friend get his forty acres and a mule, but do not tell me I'm not white. Don't show me where the wagon is because I do not want to follow it.

MATTHEW: Just because I listen to alternative music and wear vans shoes, it doesn't make me any less black than you.

JACOB: I may not live in the beautiful white suburbs, but it doesn't mean I am any less white than you.

JEREMIAH: Just because I decide to own a cleaners it does not mean I'm not Hispanic.

DAVID: I can listen to Jay-Z and still be as Asian as you. And if you do not like that, I don't care.

MATTHEW: I don't care what you like or do not like. It doesn't matter to me.

JACOB: Get upset, you ain't doing me no harm.

JEREMIAH: You know what; if you don't like it you know what you could do?

DAVID: You can

MATTHEW: Kiss my

JACOB: Natural

JEREMIAH: Hispanic

DAVID: Asian

JACOB: White

MATTHEW: Black

DAVID, MATTHEW, JACOB, JEREMIAH: ASS!

DAVID: Hell, I refuse to follow that damn bandwagon.

ESTHER: David, man, me too.

MATTHEW: Hey, Esther, how you doing?

ESTHER: I'm doing just fine avoiding that wagon.

EVE: Girl, avoid it at all costs, girl it ain't worth following.

SARAH: Eve is right. No need in following the bandwagon. It's worthless and a waste of time.

JACOB: Hey Sarah. How do you avoid the wagon?

SARAH: Its easy Jacob, I simply go the opposite way. But I keep my eye on it.

JEREMIAH: Why would you keep your eye on it?

SARAH: So if it decides to follow me I can go another way.

DAVID: That is a great idea, but I don't have to worry about keeping an eye on them. I go down the road less traveled. You'll find close to none wagons on that road.

MICHAEL: I travel the road no one travels at all. You'll never find a bandwagon on that road.

RUTH: Well, I travel the road that's not even a road. You know the road that someone has to pave. You be by yourself, but at least you know you're not only doing the right thing, but at some point that wagon will be following you and you not following the wagon.

MICHAEL: Ruth, you are so right. More people should pave their own road. There's less trouble that way.

JEREMIAH: That's true Michael, but most people won't because they are afraid of what people might say.

RUTH: Yeah, that's true Jeremiah, but it is time people stop caring what people say and just start doing the right thing. It is not about following what everyone else is doing. It is about being strong enough to make your own choices regardless what everyone else is saying.

ESTHER: They said everyone tried ecstasy, but I told them, not everyone because I haven't and I won't.

RUTH: They told me everyone was going to be drinking, but I told them I don't care. I do not want one.

DAVID: They said everyone was joining one, but I told him, I'm not joining a gang.

EVE: They said everyone was doing it, but I told them I'm not having any.

MATTHEW: S.

RUTH: Sweet.

JEREMIAH: Smooth.

ESTHER: Sensual.

SARAH: E.

DAVID: Exotic.

JACOB: Erotic.

EVE: Endowment.

MICHAEL: X.

RUTH: X-rated

JACOB: X, x rated.

DAVID: Triple X, baby.

DAVID, RUTH, MICHAEL: S

JEREMIAH, EVE, JACOB, ESTHER: E

MICHAEL, SARAH, MATTHEW: X

ALL: Sex.

SARAH: So, I was out with the guy right and he decided to take me to his home. I told him I have no reason for being here. He said well, don't you want to come inside? I told him no. He then said, well, I thought we were going all the way. I screamed and said what the hell do you mean? He sure was bold. I told him we're not going any where all the way. He then said are you holding out? You must be one of them Christian virgins. I said I maybe Christian, but I'm no virgin. I've been around the blocks a couple of times. He then asked; then what's the problem? I told him there is no problem; I just finally got some vision. You see, after going around the block a few times I finally realized the bang wagon I was chasing. They say you not supposed to be too easy, but don't have them talking about how you stingy. So you do it a couple of times. But after some time I realized that lifestyle is not me. I do not have to have sex with a man. I made the decision to abstain. And you know what he said to me? He said I was crazy. Can you believe that? Crazy! When did abstinence become crazy? When did it become the road less traveled? When did it become so odd and uncomfortable to be around? Why are so many single men and women afraid to abstain? Afraid to say that they are abstaining and that they do not care to give themselves until they are married? I do not understand this space, this time, this season we are living in. It used to be a shameful feeling to say you had sex before marriage, now it's a shameful feeling to say you're a virgin. Where did this come

from? This wagon was not always here. Someone somewhere created it and I want it destroyed. But until it is destroyed I will just avoid it at all costs. I will not follow the bandwagon of everyone is having sex so why not do it? I am going to be my own person and hold and keep myself for my husband.

EVE: I'm no virgin either. I must admit I followed the wagon and had sex with Johnny Baker. The sexy football player in high school. It wasn't bad, but it was in that moment and after that I regretted every single second. I cried myself to sleep for nights wishing I would have waited. Wishing I would have used the courage and strength it takes to say no to sex. They tell us to say no to drugs, but they don't say; say no to sex. And I had wished they did. All they said was use a condom, be safe. Well, there is no condom for emotional pain. There is no condom for regretting you didn't wait. There is no condom for realizing your first time was the wrong time with the wrong person. It took me some time to get myself back together, but soon enough I knew I had to make the decision to save myself and celebrate my celibacy. I cannot be a virgin, but I can be celibate. I have allowed celibacy to wrap its arms around me and hold me tight and keep me to myself. I have decided that there is nothing wrong with following the pathway of celibacy. It may be quiet and empty, but there is nothing wrong with being alone. Because I found out that alone is not loneliness. That one is not the loneliest number. That I can stay by myself be celibate and be happy all at the same time. I may have followed that wagon of sex, but I will no more. I will celebrate my celibacy and when my husband finds me I will have covenant with him and only him.

RUTH: I am a PROUD VIRGIN. That's right I said it a virgin. I don't mind telling people that. I say it loud and clear so they can hear. I make it my business to let people know I have made the decision to abstain until I get married. I know it is not the popular talk anymore, but I sure as hell don't want to talk about wrapping it up. I want my husband to be the only man that has experienced me. I want him to be the only man on earth to love, caress, feel, touch, and hold me the way a husband should his wife. I want him to be the only one who can talk about how good I can satisfy him. I do not

want him to be the third, fourth, fifth, or the twenty-second man to grace my stage. I want him; I need him to be the first and the only one to know what it is like to be with me. Now a lot of many women ask why you want that. You ain't gonna be the only one for him. Well, I know in my heart, my soul, and body that if I have the patience to wait for him, God himself will send a man who waited for me. I know there aren't that many, but there are still a few men who made the decision to wait and keep themselves. I know it to be true because I take a walk on that pathway of virginism every day. And I see them. I see them walking by with their heads up high not ashamed of their decision to reject the bandwagon of safe sex and casual encounters. So, you can make fun, laugh, and have every bit of disbelief in your body about the wonderfulness that is being a virgin, but I love it, and I love me for deciding to stay pure for my husband.

MICHAEL: Safe sex is alright though, right?

RUTH: Safe sex is just another wagon. You can decide to follow it or deny it.

MICHAEL: But I thought teaching safe sex was good. I mean yes we should all abstain, but some are going to have sex anyways so teach them to do it safely.

RUTH: Would you teach the thief to rob safely. I mean, it's wrong to steal, but people are going to do it anyway. So why do we keep telling them to not do it at all. Maybe if we teach them to do it safely, you know tell them not to harm anyone, then it should be okay, right?

MICHAEL: No. That's not right.

RUTH: I mean we all know that rape is 100% wrong and that no one should do it, but people are going to do it anyway. Do we tell them to rape safely? You know, do it with protection. Wrap it up. What about the child offenders do we tell them to molest safely? And should we tell the politicians to stop lying, but if need be lie safely?

EVE: Girl, I never thought of it that way.

MICHAEL: Just because I have sex with men it does not mean I have to wear rainbows. Just because I make the decision to bring a handsome man to my bedroom it doesn't mean I have to

conform to your bandwagon of what a gay man is supposed to do, be, and feel. I have my own thoughts, my own beliefs, and my own systems and they do not have to run around yours. I do not have hold rainbow flags and where pink triangles, and dance in parades half naked. It does not mean I have to believe in what you believe. It does not mean I cannot believe what I am doing is sin. Just because I have sex with a man it does not mean I have to marry him or want to marry him or even believe in same-sex marriage. It doesn't mean I have to walk to D.C. with posters and sticks demanding rights. Just because I have sex with a man it does not mean I have to believe that marriage is a right. Just because I have sex with a man it does not mean I have to parade around and let everyone know. It does not mean I have to escape any closets. Just because I have sex with a man it does not mean that I am doing wrong if I make the decision to stay discrete. I do not have to follow your bandwagon of what it is and means to be gay because there is no concrete meaning of what gay people are supposed to believe, feel, do, or say. Just because I enjoy being pleased by a man does not mean I have to follow your meaning of what gay is. Just because I have sex with a man it does not mean I have to have the same definition of gayness. It does not mean I have to believe I was born this way. It does not mean I have to believe God created me this way. Just because I had sex with a man it does not mean I have to believe that it was not my choice. And if I decide that I have had enough of men it does not mean I am being brain washed when I decide to transform myself into a heterosexual. Just because I have sex with men it does not mean I have to be gay like you.

JEREMIAH: I am trying with my every being to not slap people. They annoy me. I am simply trying to take the road less traveled. I am trying to pave the way like Rosa Parks and Thomas Edison. I am simply trying to create something new. But it is difficult when you have a bunch of old minded people around you. Not old in age, but old in thinking. People who fear change and the oddness it brings. People who speak change and want change, but don't want the difficulty it brings which are people who fear change. Many people tell me to take the easy road to take the possible road, but you cannot make the impossible road possible by traveling the possible road. That's what I want to

do. I do not want to take the road that is possible, I want to take the road that is impossible and make it possible. There is no way Rosa Parks would have defeated bus segregation if she would have followed the bandwagon and sat in the back. She figured her dime she used to pay to sit on the bus was the same color as the white's dimes. And what about Thomas Edison? If he would have followed the bandwagon we wouldn't have a light bulb. We would still be lighting candles every which a where we go. And you know they say he also invented the motion picture camera. Do you realize there would be absolutely no movies today if Mr. Edison would have followed the bandwagon? You can't create new and never seen before things following the bandwagon. You have to go down that impossible road as uncomfortable as it may seem and make it possible and comfortable for those coming behind you. Because at some point all those fools following the bandwagon are going to realize how foolish they are and leave that wagon alone. But it takes one brave soul to leave that wagon alone and go the opposite way. Will that soul be you?

JACOB: It takes courage to be different and still not care what they say.

RUTH: *Who are they any way? And should you care?*

MICHAEL: Boys wear blue.

SARAH: Girls wear pink.

JACOB: Boys play sports.

EVE: Girls take dancing lessons.

JEREMIAH: Boys only talk about girls and sports.

RUTH: Girls must discuss our emotional feelings with each other.

DAVID: Sweet Six Teens are only for girls.

ESTHER: Only boys are allowed to do whatever they want.

MATTHEW: Boys don't cry.

SARAH: I can follow the bandwagon, but that's my choice. But don't be upset if I decide not to. I don't have to wear make-up to prove I'm a girl. I don't need any fancy nails to show you I am a

girl. I don't need to follow the bandwagon of fancy hair-dos and fancy dresses or skirts to prove to you I am a girl. I am a girl because my vagina says I am. I don't need to shave my legs or my arm pits; if I do great, but if I don't it doesn't make any less of a girl. I am a girl because my vagina says so. I don't have to cover my head, I don't have to be submissive, I don't have to lie down and let you use me. I am a girl because my vagina says I am. I do not have to pretend I make less money than you or know less than you because you are a man. I do not have to do dishes and change the diapers and do the laundry to prove to you I am a woman. I am a woman because my vagina says I am. I do not have to play with dolls and princess crowns to prove I am girl. I do not have to hopscotch or ballet myself to you just so you can believe I am a girl. I am a girl because my vagina says I am. I do not have to follow your bandwagon of what a girl or a lady or a woman does just to make you believe that I am indeed female. Your happiness about what I do to make you think I am a female means nothing to me. I am a female because my vagina says I am.

DAVID: Well, I don't mind playing with dolls and I do not want a baseball or a football or even a soccer ball I want some tap, modern, ballet, and jazz shoes so I can get my dance on, but I still am a boy. I'm not any less of a boy because I do not care to watch sports or talk to you about wrestling, karate, or any other macho man stuff you need me to talk to you about so you know I am a boy. I am a boy because my penis says I am. I do not need to fight to prove I am a boy. I do not need to run faster or jump faster or skateboard faster just so you can see I am a boy. I am a boy because my penis says I am. I do not need a manly tattoo I do not have to drink beer I do not have to have a wife to prove to you that I am all man. My penis says enough. I can wear a skirt some earrings lipstick and even a bra, but that does not make me a woman, a sissy, or anything less. I am not a man because I can shoot pool or lie to some woman so I can have sex with her or even lie to myself to believe I am. I am a boy because my penis says I am. What I do or do not do cannot and will not identify me as a man. I am male because my penis says so. I will not feel obligated to watch sports talk trash get into a fight or follow any other manly bandwagons you have because that will not or will make me a man. I am

male because my penis says I am. And there is nothing I have to do, say, or feel for you just so you can feel safe about what you think I am. I am not a man because of what I do, say, or feel. You can keep your bandwagons to yourself.

RUTH: You should never do something because everyone expects you to do it. You should do it because you; with your whole heart; want to do it. If there is any doubt whatsoever, I don't care what they say, don't do it.

MATTHEW: Would you like to make a donation to Cancer research foundation?

JACOB: No, thank you.

MATTHEW: Why not. Don't you want the doctors to find a cure? Don't you have a heart? You should be ashamed of yourself.

JACOB: I am tired of everyone making me feel bad because I will not go on the bandwagon of donating money to all these foundations trying to find the cure to cancer. I had cancer and everyone thinks I should be supportive. I am very supportive, but I do not believe in supporting something that does not work. I did the chemotherapy, the radiation, the lasers and surgery and the cancer got worst each time. Then a good friend of mine gave me this book. It was simply entitled Natural Cures for Cancer. I read that book so quickly. I was excited to finally see an alternate. Within a month of doing everything that book said I was cancer free. It seems to me we should be studying that book and not spending thousands of money into all this research that have lead to nothing. It just seems to me being that it worked; my doctor would have been happy, but instead he could not believe that the only thing that worked was information he did not learn in his medical studies. Well, I don't care what you think or say about your bandwagon I will not follow that bandwagon for sure. If I am going to donate any money it will be to purchase more books to those who cannot afford it. Listen, all bandwagons are bad if you do not know the truth. And when you do not know the truth you follow them hopelessly.

SARAH: *When do I stop caring what you think of me? When do I realize your thoughts of me are none of my business? When do I begin to care for me and do what is right for me? When shall I*

care about my life? When do I see that the love I have for me is all I need? When do I stop caring what you think of me?

ESTHER: When I saw my brother leave for Iraq I was upset. Everyone told me that it was okay and that he was fighting for me and my country. They told me to support them. Not the war, but the soldiers. They told me freedom is not free and that we have to fight for it by going to war. The day he left was the last day I saw him. He died in a suicide attack. Because he went to the same high school as me I asked if we could hold a memorial prayer service. But they told me no because prayer is not allowed in school. I then thought to myself, who died in war for the freedom of prayer to be taken away? And do you remember Oprah being sued because she said something about beef on TV. I thought we all had the freedom of speech. What war did we lose for that freedom to be taken away? After much thought I had realize war is not fought for freedom and no one fights for me or our country. They are fighting for the president who has sent them there to do his dirty work. If you think about it freedom is not fought through war it is fought through the court. Citizens and lawyers present a judge with an argument and the judge makes a final decision. No man or woman had to ever die for that to happen. Just because someone told you, you need to support, doesn't mean you have to.

JEREMIAH: You should know that your opinions mean nothing to anyone, but yourself. And you should never share your opinions unless someone asks for them. And you should never make people agree with you and your opinions; because your opinions are not facts. So your opinions are not right they are not wrong they are just yours. So keep them to yourself. And leave mine alone.

EVE: *Should I follow you? Or should I go my own way?*

MATTHEW: I do not have to celebrate Christmas the same way you do just to prove to you that I am a Christian. I am a Christian because I believe. I do not have to decorate the house host up a Christmas tree, send out greeting cards or even listen to a 24/7 Christmas radio station. I do believe in Jesus and that should be enough. I do not have to lie to my children about Santa. Jesus and I are the only men they need to know about. I do not have to go Christmas caroling nor do I have to bake

cookies pies and cakes. I do not have go from store to store from mall to mall to find the latest most expensive toys that my children won't even spend two weeks with. Besides, it's not their birthday. It's Jesus.' I do not have to be chased down by a man from Israel trying to sell me Dead Sea products while trying to find a damn gift. I do not have to drink eggnog nor have my children sit on some strangers lap and tell him what they want for Christmas, because, again, it ain't their birthday. I do not have to celebrate Christmas the same way you do just to prove to you that I am not a Scrooge. Nor do I need to celebrate it to prove that I am a Christian because I believe. I do not have to wish you a merry Christmas or even wish you well; just as long as I remember Jesus; that should be enough. I do not have to black Friday it or cyber Monday it. I do not have to cook pounds of food and I do not have to see my family because Christmas is not about you it's not about me it is all about Jesus. So I will not follow the bandwagon that is Christmas. Just as long as I remember my savior was brought to die so I can live that's all I need for the holiday season.

MICHAEL: *Oh...Keep your traditions to yourself.*

RUTH: You know, Eve, there are just certain things a lady is not supposed to do.

EVE: I will not follow the bandwagon of being prim and proper and holding it in. Hell, its gas and its natural. If I need to let it out I will. I don't need to pretend like I am the only one who farts and be ashamed to do so. And if I don't say excuse me, so what. It's natural; it is apart of living. I shouldn't have to excuse myself for doing something I have to do. You don't excuse yourself for sleeping or showering. It is apart of this thing we call life. I will not follow the bandwagon of holding it in and being shy. Hell, I'll leave the room if need be, but if it is about to release itself I will not stop it. I will let the gases flow.

JEREMIAH: Girl, let it flow, let I flow.

EVE: And don't you say anything about me farting, because you know you've done it before. There's nothing wrong with it. Why have we created this uncomfortable feeling about doing what is

natural to the body? Yes, I can take some beano before so there will be no gas later, but if I don't and the gas comes, I will let it rip.

ESTHER: Let it rip, girl, let it rip.

EVE: No need in trying to hide it.

SARAH: Girl, don't hide it, just fart.

EVE: Now don't be rude and disgusting with it. But if you feel it ripping through let it out. I will not follow the bandwagon that is being modest about farting. I am denying that wagon and farting freely.

RUTH: Girl, you better fart freely now, before they take that freedom away from us as well. No prayer in school.

ESTHER: No talking about beef on TV.

RUTH, ESTHER: And no farting freely.

SARAH: I guess that means I can burp freely.

EVE: Girl, burp away.

SARAH: BURP!!!

SARAH, RUTH, ESTHER, EVE: *Fart and Burp!*

JACOB, JEREMIAH, DAVID, MATTHEW: *Let's get rid of some gas.*

SARAH, RUTH, ESTHER, EVE: *Fart and Burp!*

JACOB, JEREMIAH, DAVID, MATTHEW: *Let's get rid of some gas.*

SARAH, RUTH, ESTHER, EVE: *Fart and Burp!*

JACOB, JEREMIAH, DAVID, MATTHEW: *Let's get rid of some gas.*

EVE: *Fart and burp, let's get rid of some gas. Let it out your mouth and your ass.*

SARAH: *Don't you quit; don't you cease until it's released. Rip it out just like a beast.*

JACOB: *Don't you know that everybody does it. This is one wagon I sure will join.*

DAVID: *Just rip it out now. Go ahead out loud. Don't be shy be proud.*

RUTH: *But don't be too loud and don't be too proud. 'Cause you don't want an accident, you'll be very discontent.*

JEREMIAH: *But take the chance to let it out, don't you dare now hold it back. 'Cause you might have a heart attack.*

ESTHER: *And when it's time to let the gas go. Let it flow, let it flow, let it flow.*

MATTHEW: *And if someone says something to you. Let them know there's no shame in your game.*

MICHAEL: *Because there's nothing wrong with releasing the gas. It's as natural as the green grass.*

ALL EXCEPT: *And just in case it should smell inferior you should keep some air freshener. Burp and fart, burp and fart, burp and fart, fart and burp. Burp and fart, burp and fart, fart and burp, burp and fart.*

EVE: *I'm gonna release this gas. I'll release it through my ass. I'm gonna release this gas. And I'll do it with some class. No. I don't care what you think of me because it's none of my business. You may not like it at all. But it's my gas to release. So the next time you feel like, like following the bandwagon of holding in. Just go ahead and let it rip don't be a shamed just let it slip.*

ALL: *Burp and fart. Fart and burp.*

MICHAEL, MATTHEW, JEREMIAH, JACOB, DAVID: *Burp and fart. Fart and burp.*

EVE, ESTHER, RUTH, SARAH: *Burp and fart. Fart and burp.*

EVE: Michael, what's wrong?

MICHAEL: I'm in pain.

ESTHER: Do we need to take you to the hospital?

MICHAEL: No, I need to get this off of me.

JACOB: Michael, there is nothing on you.

MICHAEL: I am so done with following the bandwagon of carrying pain. I am not following the bandwagon anymore of keeping quiet and shutting up. They tell me it's a family secret. Well, it's not a family secret it's my secret. And I tell it when I want to. I will not follow the bandwagon of what they don't know won't hurt them. Because what they don't know is hurting me. I love my uncle, God knows I do, but I hate what he did to me. I didn't choose to be molested, so I don't have to be ashamed or guilty. And I shouldn't have to feel ashamed for speaking up. I will not follow the bandwagon of keeping quiet because I need peace. Peace from this pain that torments me the more I keep it a secret. I am ruining relationships because I do not trust anyone because of what he did to me. I cannot continue my life because I have decided to do what everyone else is doing and that is keeping it a secret. Well, I cannot and will not do this anymore. I need to free myself from this pain of guilt and shame and the only way to do it is to deny the bandwagon and to not follow it. I am a survivor of molestation and I do not care who knows it and I do not care who is upset that I told. It is time for me to speak up. I no longer follow the bandwagon of concealing the truth of my past.

ESTHER: *(Singing) No more, no more, no more, no more. I will follow the wagon no more. No more, no more, no more, no more. I will follow the wagon no more.*

ALL EXCEPT MICHAEL: *No more, no more, no more, no more. I will follow the wagon no more.*

ESTHER: *Oh, if it means I have to lose my friends.*

ALL EXCEPT MICHAEL: *No more*

ESTHER: *Oh, if my family leaves me in the end.*

ALL EXCEPT MICHAEL: *No more*

ESTHER: *Oh, its time for me to choose the other side.*

ALL EXCEPT MICHAEL: *No more*

ESTHER: *Oh, bandwagon I'm telling you bye-bye.*

ALL EXCEPT MICHAEL: *No more. No more, no more, no more, no more. I will follow the wagon no more. No more, no more, no more, no more. I will follow the wagon no more.*

JEREMIAH: Are you feeling better?

MICHAEL: Yes. But I can't believe I'm crying. I shouldn't be crying.

RUTH: Why not?

MICHAEL: Because a man is not supposed to cry.

MATTHEW: That's just another bandwagon.

EVE: I am so sick of all these myths and bandwagons. Where the hell did they come from?

JACOB: Us. Our ancestors created them and we were dumb enough to follow them.

SARAH: Well, I am following them no more. I'll tell you... *No more, no more,*

ALL: *No more, no more. I will follow the wagon no more. No more, no more, no more, no more. I will follow the wagon no more.*

SARAH: Father, God, I come before you asking that you hear this prayer. Please give me the strength to turn away from that old wagon.

MATTHEW: I need the strength Lord.

SARAH: I know how pretty it looks, but I also know how ugly it really is.

ESTHER: Just an ugly old wagon.

SARAH: God help me to say no when I need to say no and yes when I need to say. Give me the courage to start my own path when I need to and the humbleness to stand someone else's. Help me to make an impossible pathway possible.

JEREMIAH: All things are possible.

God, remind me why and how important it is to stay away from the bandwagon so I stay clear and far away from it. And Lord if I should get tempted to follow that wagon find a way to come down and slap some sense into me.

EVE: Slap her, Lord, slap her.

SARAH: And Lord, father God as I walk the opposite way of the wagon do not forsake me for I will need your peace and comfort to keep me from feeling lonely. Because I know I'll be the only one down that path for a long time.

MICHAEL: Alone for a long time.

SARAH: But I know Lord soon and very soon you will send those to follow not a bandwagon, but trail blazer,

JACOB: A trail blazer.

SARAH: A unique individual.

DAVID: Unique soul child.

SARAH: -who has decided to do the right thing. The thing that was not popular. The thing no one else wanted to do at first; the thing that people criticized. But I know Lord you will send them all down this great pathway. This pathway that has no room for a bandwagon.

ALL: *No more, no more, no more, no more. I will follow the wagon no more. No more, no more, no more, no more. I will follow the wagon no more.*

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