

LINDA OATMAN HIGH

otherwise

Otherwise

We are all
Otherwise.

Bill number S868
passed today
in the state of
Pennsylvania.

Last to pass in the nation.

And in 30 days
this will be our law:
No Gender Specified.

No more boy.
No more girl.

Unisex is best,
they say,
for our state and the rest.

The population explosion
has created
a mess.

Otherwise

Control
is their answer.

Everyone must
now shave
their heads.

Everyone must
now wear
the same gray
uniform.

I must confess,
checking the box that says
“Otherwise” or “Unisex”
does not seem best
to me.

I feel like a freak.

I am now
—we are all—

Otherwise.

How It Started

This all started
back in 2022

when preschools
and day cares
and most parents
began to think

there should be no
more pink
or blue
for new humans.

Yellow and purple and orange
and aquamarine green
were cool.

Then nobody had a clue
if that human
was a boy or a girl.

Otherwise

The babies were all the same.

Only those who changed
the diapers
knew the truth.

Nobody Was Given a Name

At the Equal Preschool,
the rules included no tutus.
No doll babies.
And no trucks.

That was totally messed up.

I always knew what I was
anyway.

We had a play kitchen
filled with Lincoln Logs,
with no division
between kitchen sink
and construction site.

There was no difference
between
building a church or flipping a burger.

Making a road or baking a cake.
Hammers or spatulas.

We
were
all
the
same.

That was the beginning
of when nobody
was given a
name.

Not for the
public domain
anyway.

The Future of Neutral

THE FUTURE OF NEUTRAL!

Gen FN!
My generation
has a name.

They gave
it to us, the government
did.

I always wished
to be part of something
better
than Gen FN,
the generation
with a vision of
no gender
division.

I hate
bill S868.

Otherwise

In 30 days,
I will hate
our new law too.

We
are
screwed.

otherwise

It's the law.

There will be no more genders.
Everyone must appear gender
neutral. No more boys. No more
girls. Just ... otherwise. "Spark"
dreads the future. Then she meets
"Whistler." But who is Whistler?
And what is Whistler?
Boy? Or girl?



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