

I, DANGLE

SHANNON BURNS

I say, she has revealed her breasts. Yes she has taken off the top part of her bikini and revealed her breasts. I should return the sentiment in some way. I assume that returning the sentiment is what is required of me. She has removed her bikini top and now it is time for me to make a similar gesture.

But how? What shall I do? I could take off my shirt but what will that accomplish? Every male on the beach has his shirt off. There is nothing taboo about a male on the beach with his shirt off, showing his male breasts. There is, on the other hand, something decidedly curious about a female prancing around with her breasts bared on this beach, on a beach like the beach we have come to. When I decided to accompany her to this beach I had no idea that she had it in mind to reveal her breasts. Is it legal for a woman to bare her breasts on a public beach? I'm not sure. In any event, I should do something in response. But what should I do? The situation seems entirely uneven.

Will I remove my shorts? Should I go completely nude here on this beach? That would be more of a token, an expression of good faith and sharing, than simply taking off my shirt. I'm not ashamed to remove my shorts. I'm certainly brave enough. But perhaps she would find it inappropriate. Would she laugh at the clumsiness of me taking off my shorts when all that is required is for me to remove my shirt? After all, she is still wearing her bikini bottom. She is yet to signal any intention to remove all of her clothes and stand before me completely nude.

My shirt is still on. Why is my shirt still on? While I'm thinking about taking off my shorts I should at least remove my shirt. I am, at this very

moment, the only male in sight with his shirt still on and I'm standing next to the only woman on the beach with naked breasts. I must look very odd. Perhaps people will think that I am ashamed to reveal my chest. Perhaps they will think I'm disfigured in some way beneath my clothes and this is why I still have my shirt on. I am not disfigured, however. Not in the least. I am, by all accounts, well-proportioned. My figure is not mangled in any manner whatsoever.

I am firmly resolved that it would be impossible, completely impossible, for me to remove my shorts here on this beach. For one thing it is too cold. But more importantly, there are children. It is a Saturday and there are children on the beach, as with any Saturday in summer. When I was a child I too was often to be seen running around at the beach, frequently with my parents in tow, but just as often with other young friends. If I had seen a man's dangling penis on the beach when I was a child I'd have been terribly upset. I can't imagine what my parents, if they happened to be with me, would have said to such a man. My mother would have surely given a disapproving look and it is very likely that my father would have approached such a man and requested sternly that he cover his genitals. What are you doing? my father would have said. Don't you understand that this is a public beach? Can you not see the children running around?

As for me, I certainly would have been disturbed, as a child, were I to have seen a naked man on this beach. Having said that, I must admit it is more likely that I would have been distracted by the woman's naked breasts. If there were a woman with bare breasts standing next to the man with his dangling genitals, I would have certainly looked at her instead of him. It is not the usual thing to see women's breasts at this beach, or anywhere in this city for that matter. No, not at all. In addition, for a child it is always a wonderful thing to see a strange woman's breasts. No, it cannot be denied that as a child I would have enjoyed watching a woman with bare breasts despite the presence of the naked man standing beside her.

By the same token, I can't imagine my father would have gone up to a woman with naked breasts to request that she cover herself. It is more likely that he would have laughed, perhaps even pointed her out to me. That is the sort of father he was. Besides, it would have been embarrassing

for a father, who is at the beach with his son and his wife, to approach a semi-nude woman. People may have stared at him, suspecting he was a pervert. They would not have known what to think. People would have more than likely thought he was soliciting something quite inappropriate of the bare-breasted woman. Just leave the poor young woman to get a tan on the beach, they would have thought. Can a woman not bare her breasts at the beach without all sorts of men coming and peering and soliciting for unmentionable services? And a father with a child and a wife with him should behave better, they would have thought.

I am resolved that I would feel most uncomfortable revealing myself before children on this beach. That would be a very unfortunate thing to do. If there is one thing I should really avoid, it is displaying my naked genitals to these children here on this beach. That would be an incredible mistake for me to make. My genitals must remain covered up. Children do not want to see a man's genitals, even if the man is standing next to a woman with bare breasts.

But I am not ashamed. Even though it may seem as though I have something to hide as I stand here fully clothed, I have nothing to hide. I would more than likely reveal my genitals right here on the beach before this woman with her naked breasts if it were not for the children. Then it would become apparent to everyone that this is a man who has nothing to hide, nothing to fear at all. They would think to themselves that this is a man who is perfectly prepared to reveal his private parts in the open air of a public beach, and, what's more, if I were to reveal myself to the children, everyone would have much more respect for me. Children often laugh, they would think. This man has risked the callous laughter of children who would be perfectly happy to point out his shortcomings and laugh and hiss and taunt. And what's more, he has shown himself to be extremely comfortable with his body and the freedoms associated with being a *natural* type of person. Some men would be ashamed to reveal themselves in front of a woman who is not expecting it, not to mention an entire beach with children running around, but this man, they would think, must be *constantly* revealing himself. How else would he have the courage to expose himself in such a fashion?

This is an admirable man with nothing whatsoever to hide, they would think. I wish that it were *my* daughter with the bare breasts standing next to him, they would think. If *my* daughter were standing bare-breasted next to a man with his penis dangling on the beach on a cool summer's afternoon I would be an extremely proud parent, they would think, and what's more, I would have the highest expectations for her future.

They would know that their daughter was in the safe hands of a man who is prepared to show children his dangling genitals on the beach. That is all one can ask of a prospective son-in-law, they would think. From the fact that he is prepared to reveal his penis wherever he goes we can deduce that he must be a very successful man. Perhaps he is a businessman, they would think. Or perhaps he has no need to work. It would seem perfectly normal for a man with a sizable inheritance to have no shame when it comes to revealing himself on a public beach. A man with a sizable inheritance is prepared to reveal anything, they would think.

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