

**Chapter 7**  
***Bone Black: Memories of Girlhood***  
**bell hooks**

APA:

hooks, b. (1996). *Bone black: Memories of girlhood* (pp. 19-21, chap. 7). New York: Henry Holt & Co.

MLA:

hooks, bell. *Bone Black: Memories of Girlhood*. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1996. 19-21.

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ugly men so that he could carry away the beautiful princess. He never carried her any further than the corner of the street and all the while he complained bitterly about how awful it was pulling her, how he wanted a turn sitting in the wagon. Sometimes he would cry—that was just how much he wanted to be pulled in the red wagon.

She did not mind pulling him. It was the grown-ups like Papa her great-grandfather who had trouble seeing her pull that big boy in the wagon. When they finally got daring enough to go around the corner he would immediately dump her out and demand that he be pulled. Her legs were short and fat, his were long. She could not pull as fast as he wanted her to but he urged her on, watching with glee as the little fat legs struggled to move him, fast, faster, struggled to give him the fastest ride of them all. Her struggle to give him the fast ride made the boy happy, so happy that he never wanted to take turns. He only wanted her to pull and pull him. It was because of this that she began to assert her girl rights, to tell him that he was the boy and should pull her. He rarely listened so she would threaten to tell the grown-ups. He would always say, Tell them, knowing all the time that she would not, that she hated to see him punished. If he was punished she would want to be punished, too; even if they would not punish her she would cry with him. Sometimes the father and the great-grandfather would find out that the boy rarely pulled the girl. They would stand towering over him speaking in harsh big voices, explaining that he was the boy and