

# The Arcade Fire: Spook Babies



by Ana Friday

**“Don’t think about pink elephant.”**

—*The Arcade Fire*

[Like my Radiohead paper](#), this is one of those papers I had to write even though a large part of me didn’t want to. Arcade Fire was one of my favorite bands as a teenager. In a lot of ways they were the pinnacle of my generation’s music, dominating the indie rock resurgence of the 2000s. They broke into the mainstream after winning Best Album of the Year at the 2011 Grammys, along with a slew of other top awards (BRIT, Juno, Polaris). Granted, that doesn’t mean much these days, but at least it explains why I decided to hit them: they’re a band with a great deal of cultural currency.

If you’ve followed Arcade Fire at all, you may know Win Butler was accused of sexual misconduct in 2022, right after the release of their sixth studio album, *WE*. The story broke at Pitchfork.com, a music review site that, like Arcade Fire, once held sway in the alternative music scene but is now a decade or more past its cultural moment. I suspected the allegations were faked and that this was just another split-the-sexes project. For starters, [the original exposé](#) has a very scripted, Langley vibe. To give you a taste:

After Butler left, Lily texted him to apologize for rejecting his advances. “He thought my behavior was weird, so maybe it was actually me in the wrong,” they told Pitchfork. “Looking back, it’s pretty easy to identify the manipulation at the core of that exchange.

It's also really clear that it worked. I continued to doubt the validity of my behaviors and my assertion of my 'no' and lack of consent for months after."

Who talks like that? And of course "Lily" is a "they/them", reinforcing the whole gender fluidity project.

Butler responded to the apology by telling them it was OK, Lily said, and they never spoke or saw each other after that. After several months, Lily came to view the incidents in the car and their apartment as sexual assaults. (According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), "Sexual assault is used to describe any sexual contact or behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the victim.")

Because of course we have to be reminded of some agency's definition of sexual assault in the middle of a news article, so that we all begin questioning whether all our past sexual encounters could be construed as rape. Better to just stop having sex altogether, don't you think? I mean, what if I kiss a girl and she charges me with sexual assault because I didn't ask her first? What if my boyfriend made advances when I wasn't in the mood—does that make him a sexual predator? OMG!

The fact is, four women and one gender-fluid "they" supposedly told some online music site Butler had assaulted them, but none ever pressed charges, nor did Butler sue them for libel. The first "victim" to come out posted about it on...Instagram. The second "victim" to come out posted on...Reddit. Really? None of it makes sense, especially Butler coming out and admitting to all the relationships and volunteering 65 screenshots of text messages to Pitchfork. In fact, Pitchfork told Butler of the allegations and included his response in the initial exposé, which seems a bit too tidy, doesn't it? By the time the article was published, Butler had already hired a crisis PR agency to craft a response, which was included in the article. His PR agent was Risa Heller, who was formerly Communications Director for New York Governor David Paterson and Senator Chuck Schumer. She was also a Senior VP at Global Strategy Group, one of the largest Democratic polling firms in the U.S. So she is a professional LIAR. Heller is an Ashkenazic Jewish name, a variant of Hiller or Hitler.

You will say the women didn't press charges because they have no proof; it's just their word against his. Except that they claim to have hundreds of text messages, including explicit photos and videos that Butler sent them. At the very least they could claim sexual harassment. But what's more curious is that Butler isn't suing for libel. If there really is no evidence against him, it would be a slam-dunk case—especially given that **he has likely lost millions of dollars due to their accusations**. The Pitchfork article was published the first day of their *WE* tour; their opening act, Feist, subsequently quit the tour, and attendance plummeted. Their latest album, *Pink Elephant*, dropped a few weeks ago and [conspicuously failed to reach the Billboard 200](#). *WE* hit #6 and their three albums prior to that all charted at #1. For their latest to not even chart signals a massive decline in their fanbase. Sales tell the same story: *WE* had 26,500 pure purchases the first week, while *Pink Elephant* only had 6,200. That's a ton of lost income from

being “canceled”. You’d expect high-profile lawyers to jump at such an open-and-shut case. Instead we see the opposite, with the Quebec Liberal Party Leader Dominique Anglade urging the victims to press charges. It gets even weirder, since Anglade is a childhood friend of Butler’s wife, Régine Chassagne. Together they founded Kanpe Foundation, which supposedly helps rural populations in Haiti. (More on that further down.)

It's starting to remind me of the fake Tiger Woods brouhaha.

Does any of that make sense to you? Then let’s consider the alternative theory that none of this happened and it’s all just a cloaked split-the-sexes project. How would Arcade Fire benefit? We just saw how their fanbase and sales have tanked; why would they sign up for a psyop project that amounts to career suicide?

It helps to look at their sales numbers again. *The Suburbs* (2010), which marks the height of their career, sold over 1 million copies. Their next album, *Reflektor* (2013), only sold about 500,000. Their next album, *Everything Now* (2017), was universally panned by critics and only sold about 100,000 copies. *WE* (2022) was also widely panned and sold only 26,500. So the writing had been on the wall for nearly a decade. Win’s brother Will understood the train was running out of steam fast and he jumped off right after *WE*. With abysmal sales through the summer of 2022, what was the band to do? How could they continue to remain a talked-about, headline-making band? Enter sex scandal.

It all makes perfect sense when you realize that these high-profile crisis PR firms don’t just manage crises, **they create them**. That is why celebrities hire them when they start washing up. They’re too addicted to the limelight to give it up, so they’re willing to get it in other ways. All publicity is good publicity to these people. My guess is that Butler and Chassagne were paid a pretty penny to participate in this project, maybe more than they would have made in record and ticket sales even if they hadn’t been canceled. This explains not only the lack of any legal action but also Chassagne’s stolid devotion to her husband throughout this debacle. It’s pretty damn hard for a marriage to bounce back from such a public disgracing, much less to continue writing creatively together and even produce an album like *Pink Elephant* that is full of unabashed love songs like “I Love Her Shadow” and “Circle of Trust”. In fact, the lyrics in their latest album seem to tell a completely opposite story to the mainstream one, with Butler coming across as the hopelessly devoted romantic who is jealous watching his wife dance with other men. It’s as if *Pink Elephant* is their subtle declaration that the whole sex scandal was just a project, and they’re hoping that their hardcore fans will get it and stick with them. They want to have their cake and eat it, too. And it’s sort of working, since despite being “canceled” they continue to tour, record with top-notch producers like Daniel Lanois (Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Peter Gabriel, U2), and make appearances on *SNL*.

If anything, I suspect Butler is gay. You’ll say that can’t be, since he’s married and has a son. But there are plenty of gay men who for various reasons get married and have kids. He admits his greatest musical influence is David Bowie, whom he worked with on *Reflektor*. He even

thanks Bowie in the liner notes to *WE*, which came out 6 years after Bowie supposedly died. Isn't that a bit strange? It tends to confirm that Bowie didn't die and that he continues to collaborate with artists like Arcade Fire behind studio doors. I wouldn't be surprised if Bowie was a silent producer on Arcade Fire's last several albums starting with *Reflektor*. They all have a very Bowie-esque glam-rock vibe and mark an abrupt departure from their first three albums. Anyhow, if Butler were gay, it would explain him writing lyrics like:

I could take you anywhere  
If I die I don't care  
You could be a movie star  
I could be an actress

What straight man would fantasize about being an actress? It sounds like a love song more to Bowie than to his wife. I don't get the sense that Chassagne is just his beard, but I do wonder if there was some kind of catamite thing going on between Butler and Bowie, or even a throuple situation.



I leave that all as tentative for now, and I genuinely wish the best for Butler and Chassagne's marriage, whatever may or may not have happened. If they ever read this, I plead with them not to get tangled up in these sorts of projects. That's not the path to a clean conscience, and it will only corrupt your art as it corrupts your soul.

I might as well hit Butler's genealogy. His grandfather was Alvino Rey, a noted jazz guitarist and bandleader.



We learn something interesting about Rey in Wikipedia:

In 1935, Gibson hired him to develop a prototype pickup with engineers at the **Lyon & Healy** company in Chicago, based on the one he developed for his banjo. The result was used for Gibson's first electric guitar ES-150.

In other words, **Win Butler's grandfather basically invented the electric guitar**. If you still think rock'n'roll celebrities can ever come from obscurity—even lesser-known indie artists like Arcade Fire—let this be another nail in that coffin. Rey married one of The King Sisters, a big band group with their own TV show. They came from the [Driggs family](#), a notorious Mormon business family that has produced a Playboy Playmate, two U.S. Representatives, a mayor of Phoenix, Grammy award-winning musicians, authors, and bank CEOs. And yes, Win Butler was raised as a Mormon, which we all know was an intelligence project. [His direct ancestor Parley Parker Pratt](#) was one of the original members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, which makes Butler and Mitt Romney third cousins once removed. Where did these Driggs come from? If we follow Butler's line back, [we hit Bartholemew Driggs](#) and his wife Elizabeth **Spencer**. Her line ends with her father and mother, but it's enough to confirm our suspicions. We can take these Spencers back to Gerard, [which Findagrave admits](#) even as it tries to deny that he was from the “preeminent aristocrat” Spencer family. They were Dukes of Marlborough, Earls of Sunderland, and also Churchill Viscounts. Think Princess Diana and Winston Churchill.

[We can take Parley Pratt back further](#) and hit Dickinson, Burr, Marbury, Hutchinson, Dryden, Chamberlain, Lincoln, and Raleigh. That relates Butler to Emily Dickinson, Aaron Burr, John Dryden, Sir Walter Raleigh, Abraham Lincoln, etc. However, it's the Raleigh line where we really strike gold, since it takes us directly back to Talbot, de Ferrers, Le Strange, de Burgh, Neville, de Vere, de Warren, FitzAlan, Powys, Audley, and Despenser. Some of the very top families in the British Peerage. Spencer = Despenser, which makes Butler a Spencer in two different lines. He also descends directly from Sir Thomas Green, grandfather of Henry VIII's last wife, Katherine Parr. The Greens come from Alfred the Great.

The Dickinson line takes us to Greene (again), Aires (Ayers), Hurst, Hooker, Fox, Fogge, Barlow, Stafford, Cromwell, d'Aubigny, de Ferrers (again), and Montgomery, to name a few.

The Fogge links us again to Sir Thomas Green, whose wife was Joan Fogge. We hit a dead-end at Martin d'Acigne, but we can [flip over to FabPedigree.com](#) and find Martin's direct descent from the Kings of Brittany, the Counts d'Anjou, and the Dukes of Burgundy. Also the Counts of Rennes, one of whom was Judhael Berenger. They pretend he wasn't Jewish, but the name is a dead giveaway. Judhael is one of William the Conqueror's ancestors, further proof that he was Jewish. We are now into the 900s A.D., which is pretty remarkable for a supposedly middle-class boy from Texas. Oh, except he wasn't middle-class, since he went to Phillips Exeter Academy, one of the most elite spook schools in America.

Through his paternal lines he is a Pierce, which probably links him to Franklin Pierce and the rest of the U.S. Presidents. It [definitively links him](#) to Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford.



Note that Phoenician nose. He was a lover of George Germain, 1st Viscount Sackville, although he was married. Through his ancestor Lydia Raguet Farnham, Butler is also related to Condé Raguet, the first U.S. Ambassador to Brazil. Beyond that, his paternal ancestry is scrubbed clean. His grandfather's [obituary](#) shows he was a Harvard graduate and one of the governor's appointees to the Acadia National Park Advisory Committee, suggesting some influential connections. It also mentions Butler's great-grandfather Arthur Pierce Butler, who happens to have [his own Wikipedia page](#), which mysteriously doesn't mention his connection to Win or give much indication of why he deserves his own Wikipedia page. It feels like these are important Butlers who don't want you to know they're important. But let's consider Win's full name: Edwin Farnham Butler III. Do you remember any connection between the names Farnham and Butler in a previous Miles paper? Go back to the [paper on Smedley Butler](#), the Marine Corps officer who played a leading role in the bogus "Business Plot" and who also played a part in the U.S. occupation of Haiti. To recap:

It was also in Haiti that Butler gained an intimate understanding of the private financial powers involved in the occupation of a country. The prime example was the relationship formed between Butler and a powerful capitalist by the name of Robert Farnham. Farnham was both vice president of the National City Bank, president of the National



Haitian Railway Company...and he was in close contact with the U.S. State Department. Farnham was such a prominent figure in Haiti that one historian described him as the “spokesman for the American financial interests in Haiti...”

Farnham and Butler...hmm, just a coincidence? Is it also a coincidence that Win Butler married a woman whose family was from Haiti? Remember, Butler and his wife started the Kanpe Foundation specifically to help Haitians. Knowing what you now know about Win’s ancestry, it should strike you as highly suspicious that a Farnham Butler is involved in charity work in Haiti. The original Farnham and Butler of Haiti were two of the leading figures of America’s occupation of Haiti, one representing its economic, and the other its political, interests. They now admit that National City Bank of New York was singlehandedly responsible for the U.S. deciding to occupy Haiti. As Vice President of the bank, Farnham was one of the chief villains in this plot. Perhaps this is why they’ve scrubbed Win’s Farnham and Butler lines; they’re hiding a close family connection to both of these men who helped ruin Haiti.

But then why would Chassagne, whose family members were brutally murdered in the Jérémie Vespers massacre of 1964 for trying to overthrow the Haitian dictator “Papa Doc” Duvalier, marry a Farnham Butler? It’s simple, actually: the massacre never happened. The coup was faked; it was all theater designed to short-circuit any real uprisings in Haiti during that period. So the Chassagnes were just as anti-Haiti as the Farnhams and Butlers. As evidence, Roland Chassagne, one of Régine’s cousins, made a documentary about the failed coup, in which [he reveals](#) that

President John F. Kennedy directed the CIA and FBI to train Haitian immigrants to invade Haiti and overthrow Duvalier. After JFK’s assassination, those plans were scrapped. But 13 members of Young Haiti decided to continue on.

The problem with that story is that the Chassagnes weren’t just random Haitian immigrants the CIA found in the U.S. and radicalized. Roland’s own father, Albert Chassagne, was the campaign manager for Louis Dejoie, who ran against Duvalier in 1957, which means they were politically well-connected before the coup. The other problem is that JFK’s assassination wouldn’t have changed the CIA’s plans, since the CIA was in charge of JFK, not the other way around. And, oh yeah, JFK wasn’t assassinated. But the big reveal here is that **Régine’s family members were employed by the CIA**. Which raises the question: could her husband’s sex scandal have been arranged on her initiative? If it was CIA funded, then I’d assume so.

Which brings me to an obvious observation: Régine is very white for a Haitian. In a *Rolling Stone* interview she mentions that her parents were both darker than her, but “somehow I just came out like this.” Let’s fact check that. Here’s her father:



He doesn't look dark-skinned to me. He's as white as Régine, if not whiter. Her mother is darker, but still much lighter than most Haitians:



If you know anything about Haiti, you know those two people are not run-of-the-mill Haitians. They look upper-middle-class, while 99% of Haitians live in abject poverty. We may assume her parents were mostly of European extraction and part of the country's ruling class. [Her ancestry confirms this](#). Régine's paternal grandmother was Nancy Turnbull, daughter of Arthur Francis Parkinson Turnbull and Berthe/Bertha Velten. Arthur was born in Montgomeryshire, Wales, to English-born parents William Turnbull and Nancy Parkinson. Arthur was a noted Methodist missionary in Haiti, and [we learn here](#) that

as a dominant figure in Haiti he showed great energy and thoroughness, not only in the work of the Mission, but in representing the interests of British traders there and of the American Army during its occupation of the country.

In other words, he was another cloaked agent of the banking interests that infiltrated and wrecked the country. Her maternal great-grandfather Jean Diedone comes from Corsica, a French island in the Mediterranean. Corsica is where Napoleon was born, and it indicates major wealth. A search on the surname Diedone brings up Dieudonné, French for "gift of God". It was the



surname adopted by Henri, Count of Chambord and Duke of Bordeaux, also known as King Henry V, pretender to the French throne in the mid-1800s. There is also Albert Dieudonné, the French actor famous for playing Napoleon.



**That nose!** In fact, he requested to be buried wearing his Napoleon costume, which is rather odd. There may be a hidden link between Régine's Corsican ancestors and Napoleon. Given Albert's long nose and face, we may assume Dieudonné is a made-up Phoenician name. **It means god-given.**

Curiously, Jean Dieudonné took his mother's maiden name; his father was Dominique Antoine Chiappini Paoli. The Paolis were a very prominent Corsican family—see Pasquale Paoli, basically Corsica's de facto leader during the years of the Corsican Republic. Wikipedia tells us that "Paoli was idolized by a young Napoleon Bonaparte." Another connection to Napoleon, how curious.

To close out, others have noticed a lot of occult symbolism and numerology in Arcade Fire's art, and I won't hash out everything here. But it's worth noting the music video for "Reflektor", the song that features Bowie. The video is choc full of mirrors, from an eerie floating disco ball to a man in a cowboy hat completely covered in mirrors, to a coffin covered in mirrors and filled with baby dolls.



The lyrics start out: “Trapped in a prism, in a prism of light / Alone in the darkness, darkness of white”. In French Régine sings “Between the night, the night and the dawn / Between the realm of the living and the dead.” Later Win sings “Just a reflection, of a reflection, of a reflection, of a reflection, of a reflection / Will I see you on the other side? / We all got things to hide”. Then we get Bowie’s line, “Thought you would bring me to the resurrector”, with Win replying “Turns out it was just a reflector”. The inspiration for the song was Kierkegaard’s *Two Ages*, a comparison between the revolutionary age and what he identifies as the current age, which he calls the reflective age. This age is marked by **the total conformity, weakness, and passivity of the masses**. Kierkegaard writes:

Not until the single individual has established an ethical stance despite the whole world, not until then can there be any question of **genuinely uniting**...

This has always been Arcade Fire’s shtick: like most popular music today, it’s designed to keep us in a state of paralyzing self-reflection—to keep society inert through constant navel-gazing. It’s as if Arcade Fire is admitting they’re the reflector, promising to bring revolution and social change but ultimately diverting us off the path. They’re just another room in the elaborate house of mirrors that has been constructed around us for centuries by the Phoenicians. We are now “trapped in a prism” of their making, so that every time we search for answers, they are standing there with their mirrors to misdirect us and herd us back into the flock. The numerology of the album focuses on the number 9—the number is written on the back of a military truck in the music video, and the song itself was released on 9/9 at 9pm. [Some have tried](#) (and failed) to decode the meaning. Thanks to Miles, the meaning is quite simple: 9 is 3x3. It signifies **33**, the highest level of freemasonry and one of the Phoenicians’ favorite spook markers. *Reflektor* also happened to be released when Butler was **33 years old**.

But don’t dwell too long on any of that. Just keep thinking about fake sex scandals and other pink (or is it Tyrian purple?) elephants.