

I Want It That Way – Backstreet Boys (1999)

You are my _____
The one _____
Believe when I _____
I want it that way

But we are two _____ apart
Can't _____ to your _____
When you _____
That I want it that way

CHORUS: _____
Ain't nothin' but a _____

Ain't nothin' but a _____

I never wanna _____ you say
I want it that way

_____ I your fire?
Your _____ desire
Yes, I know it's too _____
_____ I want it that way

CHORUS...

Now I can see that we've _____
From the way that it _____ to be, yeah
No matter the _____
I want you to know
That _____ down _____ of me

**inside, heartache, heart, Fire, desire, hear, Am, say,
worlds, reach, fallen apart, distance, used, mistake,
deep, Tell me why, late, one, But**

The Nonsensical Lyrics

📖 The first song that pops into most peoples' heads when Backstreet Boys are mentioned is their biggest hit *I Want It That Way*. The song **punctuated** the success of the album *Millennium*, released in 1999, and was responsible for

the band hitting their **peak**. However, a **dubious** fact related to this song is that the lyrics don't make a **lick** of sense.

📖 Many critics over the years have questioned the song's lyrical meaning, mainly the line, "I want it that way." Ben Westhoff **dissected** the song, writing that its lyrical content "makes zero sense". For Westhoff, "Mainly, the meaning of 'that' is at issue." While analyzing the lyrics, Westhoff perceived that, "None of the **sentiments** in the chorus seem to go with any of the other ones. Even worse, no further explanation is given for what 'that' is." The critic assumed that in the song "someone simply doesn't like it when his lover expresses preferences, never wanting to hear when his girlfriend says she wants things in particular ways".

He also noted that "The phrase 'I want it that way' is similarly **devoid** of **inherent** meaning, but it's used **recurringly** as a kind of **conclusive** phrase, always calling back to those first two lines, as the song gets **gradually** more **despairing** in nature." He also found out that "The chorus would appear to be in direct opposition to the rest of the song." He **concluded** that the song "is about a relationship that's troubled by matters of emotional and/or physical distance, but that the singer feels strongly enough about to keep it going just the same...until the chorus, at which point he decides that it's not worth the trouble. No, it doesn't make sense, but it's still **stirring**, beautiful in its own **weird** way, and **undeniably** unforgettable. And **frankly**, we wouldn't want it any other way."

1. _____ occur at intervals throughout (a period)
2. _____ an extremely small amount of sth abstract
3. _____ the point of highest activity, or achievement
4. _____ having a divided form or structure.
5. _____ a feeling or emotion.
6. _____ entirely lacking
7. _____ existing in something as a permanent, essential, or characteristic attribute.
8. _____ in a recurring manner; repeatedly.
9. _____ (of evidence or argument) having or likely to have the effect of proving a case; decisive.

10. _____ arrive at a judgement or opinion by reasoning.

11. _____ causing excitement or strong emotion
12. _____ very strange; bizarre.
13. _____ used to emphasize that something cannot be denied or disputed.
14. _____ used to emphasize the truth of a statement, however unpleasant this may be; in an open, honest, and direct manner.
15. _____ in a gradual way; slowly; by degrees.
16. _____ showing the loss of all hope.
17. _____ hesitating or doubting.

Dirty Pop: The Darkest Secrets of Boy Bands Revealed

From *New Kids on the Block* to *One Direction*, we're looking back on scandals hit boy bands **endured** during their reigns atop the charts. The catchy songs. The bold fashion statements. The poster-ready faces.

Boy bands tend to have a **squeaky-clean** image when they first make their well-choreographed debut, **eliciting** the screams of millions of devoted fans. But many boy bands' backstories **harbor** dark scandals, including **lawsuits, in-fighting** and substance abuse issues.

YouTube documentary *The Boy Band **Con**: The Lou Pearlman Story* pulled the curtain back on the **deception** his mega-group and others were the victims of, detailing the **betrayal** of their beloved-manager-turned-enemy Lou Pearlman, who died in prison in 2016.

1. _____ remain in existence; last.
2. _____ completely clean
3. _____ evoke or draw out (a reaction, answer, or fact) from someone.
4. _____ keep (a thought or feeling, typically a negative one) in one's mind, especially secretly.
5. _____ a claim or dispute brought to a law court
6. _____ hidden conflict or competitiveness within an organization.
7. _____ the action of deceiving someone.
8. _____ treachery, disloyalty
9. _____ persuade (someone) to do or believe something by lying to them.