

# The Weight – The Band

04:18:53 PM 01/29/23

Key: G Capo: 2<sup>nd</sup> Fret Notes: In the chorus rundown the F# is only the one note.

[Intro]

G Bm C G  
**I pulled into Nazareth, was feelin' 'bout half past dead**  
 G Bm C G  
**I just need some place where I can lay my head**  
 G Bm C G  
**'hey mister, can you tell me where a man might find a bed'**  
 G Bm C G  
**He just grinned and shook my hand, 'no' was all he said.**

**Intro**

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e |-----3---3-3-----|
B |---3---3-3h5---3h5-3-3---3-1---1---1---1-1---1-1-|
G |---2h4-----2h4---0h2-0h2-0---0-0h2-0-2-|
D |-----|
A |-----|
E |-----|
    
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[Chorus]

G D C G D C  
**Take a load off Fannie, take a load for free,**  
 G D C C C  
**Take a load off Fannie, (and, and, and) you can put the load right on me**

[G (F#) Em D C] C

G Bm C G  
**I picked up my bag, I went lookin' for a place to hide;**  
 G Bm C G  
**When I saw 'ol Carmen and the devil walkin' side by side**  
 G Bm C G  
**I said 'hey Carmen, come on, let's go downtown'**  
 G Bm C G  
**She said 'I gotta go, but my friend can stick around'**

[Chorus]

G Bm C G  
**Go down, Miss Moses, there's nothin' you can say**  
 G Bm C G  
**It's just old Luke, and Luke's waitin' on a judgement day**  
 G Bm C G  
**Well, Luke, my friend, what about young Anna Lee**  
 G Bm C G  
**He said, 'do me a favor, son, won't ya stay and keep Anna Lee company.'**

[Chorus]

G Bm C G  
**Crazy Chester followed me, and he caught me in the fog.**  
 G Bm C G  
**He said, 'I will fix your rack, if you'll take Jack, my dog.'**  
 G Bm C G  
**I said, 'wait a minute Chester, you know I'm a peaceful man'**  
 G Bm C G  
**He said, 'that's okay, boy, won't you feed him when you can.'**

[Chorus] [2x]

G Bm C G  
**Catch a cannon ball now, take me down the line**  
 G Bm C G  
**By bag is sinkin' low and I do believe it's time**  
 G Bm C G  
**To get back to miss Annie, you know she's the only one**  
 G Bm C G  
**Who sent me here with her regards for everyone**

[End with chorus]

As for the title character, such as she is, Robertson confirms once and for all that she is "Fanny," and not "Annie," as many have often misheard it to be. (Try singing "Take a load off Fanny" to yourself and you can see how the two easily converge). In fact, there was a Fanny upon whom the tune was based. As part of his self-education in European avant-garde cinema, Robertson studied Bergman's and Bunuel's film scripts, which he found at the legendary Gotham Book Mart on West 47th Street in Manhattan – located in a neighborhood with which he was already familiar from his days running diamonds from Toronto to New York City on behalf of a Jewish mobster uncle. The bookstore was originally opened on New Year's Day, 1920, by Frances "Fanny" Steloff, who still ran it when Robertson haunted the film section in the late 1960s. Steloff eventually donated the building to the American Friends of the Hebrew University Foundation. Those film scripts had a huge influence on Robertson both thematically and as a songwriter; they gave him permission to write songs that included jump cuts and fadeouts and used surrealistic symbolism in a particular manner that became Robertson's trademark, while dealing with questions of God, mortality, and fate. In sum, a far cry from the Band's origins as a mostly Canadian bar band called the Hawks who backed rockabilly star Ronnie Hawkins on blues and R&B numbers like "Who Do You Love?" and "Further on Up the Road."