

**“To the Ones Who Still Believe”**

*Amelia Nicole D. Santos*

They say the world is cruel —  
but I have seen kindness in the smallest hands,  
in the laughter that breaks silence,  
in the tears that water dreams back to life.

I have known pain,  
the kind that stays like an uninvited guest in the heart,  
whispering doubts between every breath.

But I have also known love —  
soft, stubborn, and shining  
even when the night forgets to end.

Love that forgives,  
Love that stays,  
Love that rebuilds the broken even when it bleeds.

I speak not of perfection,  
but of courage —  
the courage to tell the truth  
even when it trembles on your lips.

To stand when the world says *sit down*.  
To write when silence feels safer.  
To smile when you’ve forgotten why.

Because hope is not found in grand miracles,  
but in small hearts that keep beating  
even after they’ve been broken.

So this — this is for you,  
the ones who still believe in better days,  
who fight unseen wars  
with nothing but a pen, a word, a dream.

Let your voice be the light that stays,  
your truth the seed that grows,  
and your heart —  
your brave, beautiful heart —  
the proof that even in darkness,  
love remains.