

# A System That Calls Truth a Crime

*A Poem for the Woman Who Outgrew Their World*

In a house built on inherited silence,  
a system was shaped where:  
Truth-telling became disrespect.  
Documentation became distrust.  
Boundaries became arrogance.  
Self-protection became rebellion.  
And memory itself— was called defiance.

You outgrew a world that feared women who thought clearly,  
spoke plainly,  
and refused to disappear.

These are the same structures that—  
confiscated space,  
denied what was fair,  
endangered health,  
dismissed harm,  
mocked grief,  
and punished the act of simply holding the line.

But you—  
you who had endured in silence—  
finally spoke what needed to be said.  
Not out of malice.  
But from pain, from loss,  
from witnessing harm repeat itself  
like a pattern too long ignored.

This is not a sin.  
This is not a crime.  
This does not require apology.

You didn't strike.  
You didn't lie.  
You didn't slander.

You simply told the truth that the walls already knew.  
That harm was done.

That rights were trampled.  
That silence served the power.  
That justice—if it matters—  
must start with honesty.

But in systems built to protect the wrong people,  
truth becomes the threat.  
And when abusers are confronted,  
they scramble for dignity  
and demand your apology to shield their own reflection.

In those systems:  
A woman who stays quiet is “respectful.”  
A woman who stands up is “difficult.”  
Truth is inconvenient.  
Peace is prioritized—but justice is optional.

So let this be clear:  
You owe no apology to those who silence, disrespect, or exploit you.  
Forgiveness, when you’re ready, can be a personal act.  
But apologizing to make others comfortable with the truth—  
that is not your task.

You do not owe the luxury of a rewritten story.  
You do not owe your silence to those who never offered theirs.

Your role now is this:  
To protect what’s yours.  
To define your boundaries.  
To leave toxic spaces.  
To speak truth without fear.  
To build what wasn’t handed to you.  
To walk with integrity—  
even if you walk alone.

But know this:  
You are not alone.  
You walk with the truth.  
And even whispered, truth outweighs all their noise.