

Truth Be Told

Rapists, murderers, and pedophiles,
all distasteful and vile,
yet the biggest insult said aloud
is still being a “woman,”
strong and proud.

Tradition has its flaws.
Women are weak,
their thoughts viral,
so they should obey all laws
and be silent, not speak.
Men are strong and admirable,
their violence a virtue,
so they should have a say.
Cooking and cleaning all day long?!
A woman’s greatest desire!
Burping babies and wiping tushies?
What else could she possibly want to aspire?
She doesn’t want kids?!
Oh dear, something must be terribly wrong.
Tradition. Sad but true.

Girls play with dolls.
Boys play with cars.
So many toys in the mall,
but the doll is the star,
clawing into the very soul
of a lonely little girl,
now forced to radiate
an “all is well” motherly glow.

After all, her single wish
on that one shooting star
was no doubt confinement to marriage,
motherhood, and a mere maid,
unappreciated
and simply unpaid.

Time moved on and changes occurred.
More inequalities to be unheard.
Media monsters prowl around,
unleashing in-your-face attitude
day and night without a sound.
They target people young and old,
glamorize pictures of women oh-so-bold.
Victoria's Secret models,
princesses of Barbie perfection,
sexy and ideally pure
with those snow-white angel wings they endure.
Pressured and influenced to the max.
Judged by appearance, then labeled a slut.
Beauty starts to equal her worth,
personality masked and cut.

Soft, shiny hair and clear skin,
smooth legs with the body slim,
and sexy clothes if she dares.

Expectations heightened,
not new for women.

Too fat, too skinny,
too short, too tall,
too dark, too pale,

a black hole of infinite faults
with no winning at all.
A young girl's confidence shattered?
Now that's a given.
All the parental praise and compliments undone
with one strike,
"ugly,"
the ultimate blow, the only one
that erases all hope.

Lowered self-esteem and diminished ego,
she sulks as she walks home alone.
Dreams of a successful, happy future
fade away with her,
never to be sought again,
disappearing into the unknown.
This young girl will never be happy
until she realizes her worth
is not someone else's to name,
until she believes in herself,
takes a stand, and
stops taking the blame.