



I AM A WOMAN...

HEAR MY VOICE!

By: Wandachristine

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SETTING

PLACE: A living room with a large screen tv monitor on the wall.

TIME: NOW!

CHARACTERS

WOMAN ONE - Moderator

WOMAN FIVE - 71 Year Old

WOMAN EIGHT - 9 Year Old Girl

WOMAN THREE - Any Age

WOMAN SIX - Mother

MAN TWELVE - Married Gay Parent

WOMAN FOUR - Activist

OPENING SCENE

A woman casually dressed enters the living room and walks over to a desk in front of a large screen TV. We never see her face because her back is turned to the audience as she pulls up an office chair to sit down. As the woman sits down, she picks up a remote and turns on the TV; she places a pad on a table in front of her, and pulls a pencil from the bun in her hair. The television screen is now on a screen saver of a large logo in bold black letters standing out in a white background that reads... "I AM A WOMAN...HEAR MY VOICE!" The woman places her ear buds in her ears and suddenly many black boxes begin to form on her screen. It's become obvious to the audience at this point that she's preparing to enter into a Zoom Meeting. But it's also apparent that ALL of their cameras are turned off and they are identified individually as; Woman One, Woman Two, etc. There are at least 50 small boxes on her large screen. The Woman pulls her hanging microphone close to her face as she looks down at her pad, then begins speaking.

WOMAN ONE

Good evening everyone and welcome to our first "I Am A Woman...Hear My Voice!" Zoom Meeting. I've asked that all your cameras be turned off during the entire meeting; so as to keep all of our identities private. So just shoot me a message through our chat button if you wish to ask or respond to a question. Tonight I'll be known as Woman One, your moderator. Alright let's get started with tonight's agenda. There are so many voices out there tonight and I want to get to as many as I possibly can, we won't be able to hear everyone; but I'll do my best to address as many issues that warrant our immediate attention. I'm sure that we'd like to start the evening off by addressing the leaked draft written by Justice Alito. We now know what we've known for months, that the Supreme Court plans to overturn Roe v. Wade. So let's begin and remember...One Voice at a time. Woman Five go ahead.

WOMAN FIVE

I'd like to start by saying that I haven't had a moments night sleep since that piece came out in Politico. **(HER VOICE BEGINS TO QUIVER)**. I'm 71 years old and I marched 50 years ago for the right to control MY body. I'm not able to have babies anymore; but my granddaughters and nieces should be able to make their own choices when it comes to their bodies. Not some MAN that can't even get pregnant...or some woman who believes that what I choose is wrong for me or any woman. How dare they take away our constitutional rights not just as women but as human beings...SHAME! SHAME! SHAME ON THEM! We can never allow them to make us go back to how things used to be. They have no right to try and turn back the hands of time! They are NOT our Masters and we are NOT their Slaves! What will they do next? Sell us in the streets? Our lives are not based on a novel by Margaret Atwood. This is not the Handmaid's Tale. Our lives are not for Streaming.

WOMAN ONE

(QUICKLY INTERJECTS)...I agree we are not Slaves. We are not the property of ANY man! Nor Woman for that matter. We have careers, property, families; we have lives. We are not going to be clothed in long red dresses, ugly brown boots and wings around our necks. No one can write our individual stories except you the individual. You the woman and only you can write your story. I'd like for you all to hear from Woman Eight. Please Woman Eight, tell everyone your story.

WOMAN EIGHT

(YOU CAN TELL BY HER YOUNG VOICE THAT SHE'S A GIRL AROUND 9 YEARS OF AGE. SHE SPEAKS IN A VERY SOFT LOW TONE). I don't know if I can...

WOMAN ONE

Go on Sweetheart. No one can see your face. You're safe. Just tell the story that you told me a few days ago.

WOMAN EIGHT

I don't know if I can...

WOMAN ONE

It's OK. You don't have to if you don't feel like it.

WOMAN EIGHT

OK. **(SHE TAKES A LONG BREATH THEN BEGINS).** Because of COVID my Uncle and cousins came to stay with us, because my Uncle lost his job. Everyday he was always watching me...**(HER VOICE GETS SOFTER)** everyday...everyday. Then I woke up one day not feeling good so my Mama told me to stay home from school and she would ask my Uncle to take care of me while she was at work.

(SHE TAKES A LONG BREATH, THEN SIGHS).

She left.

Then he came in my room. I pretended to be sleep, but I could feel his eyes...he kept watching me...and watching me...

But...anyway. He did something to me. **(A LONG SILENT PAUSE)**

I didn't know there was a baby inside of me...and...and...**(SHE CRIES AND WOMAN ONE CUTS OFF HER MICROPHONE).**

WOMAN ONE

It's OK Sweetheart, I'll finish telling your story. She didn't know she was pregnant until her mother noticed that the child was nauseous every morning for at least a week; while getting ready for school. Her mother was able to find out that the child was in her early stages of pregnancy; but they live in Texas and even though the abortion law hadn't gone into effect at the time, she was still afraid for her child.

She said to me... "My child is having a child. This cannot be." They left Texas and went to Chicago where they have family and there she was able to get an abortion. Yes, Woman Three.

WOMAN THREE

But according to the law that child had been raped through incest and should have been given the right for an abortion regardless of the laws in Texas. Right?

WOMAN ONE

Right. But the child is Black.

WOMAN THREE

Well that shouldn't matter!

WOMAN ONE

It shouldn't but it does. Woman Six, you've got something you'd like to add?

WOMAN SIX

I'm not adding anything because I can't. I can no longer have babies and I wouldn't want to even if I could. The three precious babies that I did have are gone...ALL THREE! My babies were sitting on my front porch playing with the neighbor kids from next door...three o'clock in the afternoon...broad daylight. A car drove by and in a matter of seconds, bullets were everywhere...(SHE STOPS FOR A BRIEF PAUSE)...I was just inside, less than five feet away from them. I was watching them the whole time...and when I ran outside all three of my babies were lying in a pool of blood. GONE! Why are they telling us to have babies when they can't and won't protect them? Somebody please tell me WHY?

WOMAN ONE

(QUICKLY TAKES CONTROL). Woman Six, I'm so very sorry for your loss. There are too many Mothers who are grieving just like you. We've been yelling about gun control for years; decades and still nothing is done. You're right to be angry Woman Six. Children can't even be safe in their own neighborhoods. Or at school. We keep talking and talking; but the NRA and those with power sitting behind their Congressional desks...DON'T CARE. Well we have a different voice that would like to join in on the discussion. Go ahead Man Twelve.

MAN TWELVE

My partner and I were married three years ago and last year we adopted twin boys from a young teenage mother who didn't want to keep them. Your fight affects our gay rights as well and DON'T think for one moment that it doesn't. What will happen once they overturn Roe v Wade? I can tell you exactly what's going to happen. They are going to come after the LGBTQ community next. They can't wait to overturn every law in existence for gay rights; especially our marriages. Once they do that, what will happen to the children we've adopted? Will they come in the night and take them from their beds and give them to WHO?

WOMAN ONE

Man Twelve, my heart aches for you; because no matter how we try to ignore your issues; you're right, YOU will be next. Yes, Woman Four.

WOMAN FOUR

...And now the babies that we DO have can't even be fed. The infant formula that's supposed to be safe...ISN'T! Then they have the audacity to tell us to HAVE babies that they can't even feed? That Abbott recall should have been handled MONTHS ago by the FDA! They let that plant operate under horrible conditions, sending out formula that was tainted and NOW they want to blame it on Abbott and everybody and anybody except those responsible...THE FDA!!!! Babies died. Babies are still without formula. How can this happen? Then you want to tell me what to do with MY body? You go to hell!!! I'm tired of this Country. This so called America. Land of the free. Free to be what? Controlled? Something HAS to be done. **(HER DISCOURAGED VOICE BEGINS TO FADE)** Something. Something.

WOMAN ONE

I agree Something HAS to be done. It starts here. With us. We don't have to be part of the problem any more. We can be the solution. We have a voice and we have power. Marching isn't going to do us any good. That's why we're doing this zoom meeting. It isn't safe for us to march in the streets anymore, we could be shot, gassed and tormented, just for asserting our constitutional rights as Human Beings. I read this morning that Nancy Pelosi was denied Holy Communion by Archbishop Cordileone because of her support on abortions. He actually told her that because of the evil she's perpetrating, her soul is in danger. Yet Biden supports abortions and the Pope called him a "good Catholic" and gave him Communion. Are you serious? Restrictions from a religion that hides pedophiles and I'm sure some of their priests got women pregnant and then gave them "hush" money to have abortions so no one in their parish would find out. I bet those same priests are giving out and taking Communion every Sunday. We're surrounded by hypocrites. Woman Four is right. We all are. SOMETHING has to be done to stop this madness before there's mass chaos across this Country. We as Women have to speak out now and louder than ever before. But how do we get them to hear our voices? The same way they got Russia's attention. We will stop the flow of our hard earned dollars from spreading into their pockets. We will no longer contribute to their wealthy bank accounts. No more contributions to ANYONE'S campaign. Our cash will speak for us. We will organize and work with other organizations to have a "Cease Work Day" for those who can afford to Stop working for a week or maybe longer. There's no need for us to march or campaign outside of any judges' home, I don't want them marching outside of mine and you wouldn't want anyone doing it to you either. Let's use our brains and come up with more ways to stop this insanity. We'll meet again next Wednesday at the same time. Spread the word, today's meeting will be uploaded to YouTube and hopefully we will encourage more voices to join us. Until next week I will continue to shout...I AM A WOMAN...HEAR MY VOICE! Maybe someone will finally HEAR.

To be continued....