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## 3 poems

Bijou David

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# 3 POEMS

Bijou David

## I refuse

I refuse to cower in your presence  
I refuse to let you look down at me  
You tell me to speak out against injustice  
Unless it conflicts with what you think  
You tell me if you say it it's the truth  
But you are not always right  
You refuse to admit when you are wrong  
You don't accept that I am not your little girl anymore  
I have grown into my beliefs  
I speak my truth  
And you speak yours  
But I do not have to agree with you  
I deserve as much respect as you  
We are not peers  
You are not better than me  
Or more worthy  
You might be the past  
But me  
I am the future  
My children are the future  
Why are you deciding what world I live in  
After you are long gone  
After you are six feet under  
Buried just as deep as our  
Opinions where buried  
In your minds  
Buried along with the insensitive traditions  
And stereotypes  
Buried with the souls of the natives  
Whose land we claimed

Buried in the ocean with my ancestors  
Who knew that  
Death  
Was better than chains  
We are no longer bound by chains  
But by  
Stereotypes

### **Un-ladylike**

I am not here to be unheard .  
I am not ladylike .  
I will laugh and scream and yell .  
I will run and jump and fall .  
I am my scars.  
I am melanin dipped in sunshine and cocoa butter .  
I am not an angry black girl .  
I am that girl that is always too loud and laughs at the wrong times .  
I am thousands of stories , words , and memories .  
I am sour gummy bears and romantic movies .  
You do not define me .  
You can not control me .  
I decide my future .  
I decide my life .  
You just decide if you're in it .

### **What I tell myself**

I tell myself that the world is cruel and unforgiving .  
Others tell me the same .  
I don't tell myself of the smiles or the random acts of kindness .  
They don't tell me of the innocence it holds in its core .  
I tell myself that I will never be good enough .  
And eventually I find that I'm not good enough .  
I am great enough ,  
To be who  
And whatever I want to be .

BIJOU DAVID is a budding, artist, writer, and actor. She enjoys baking, reading, and watching rom-coms. Bijou writes mostly declarative pieces on the expectations that the world has on African American women and girls.