CANARY

The paradox of canaries in a coal mine is... the canaries could have escaped, flew the other way. The doomed creatures in the story were given the gift of flight no one had to teach them how. Sometimes it's just a matter of choice women are out of practice. We do not use our collective voice. We don't scream. We don't realize we hold the power...

Because we did not fight we gave away our rights our autonomy. We didn't see the value of our freedom. This canary did the same and lost her life as a mother. Having her son taken away.

Canary turned alkie drowned herself in booze deluge rather then feel the pain. Like the women under siege. Message reads: you do not deserve to own your body. Message received embedded in brain since youth. Powerlessness is giving it to the wrong one who convinced you to think they could wield it better than you. Convinced you they had your best interests when that couldn't be further from the truth. Do not vote no confidence. Vote no fear. My power was stripped away and I let it happen like the canaries and I was too tired of fighting to get it back.

TERRI ROSE JERTSON

Terri is a creative, author, wife, mother, and peer recovery specialist. She took up writing poetry during the pandemic as a form of therapy which best describes her writing style. As a spoken word poet, she has appeared on the PBS documentary Voices in the Garden, and Poetically Yours. Her prose has been published in online journals and international anthologies. Her first solo poetry book “The Chameleon Chronicles” Words Never Spoken was published through Red or Green Books and is available for purchase on the website https://readorgreenbooks.com/shop/ols/products/chameleon-chronicles-words-never-spoken Terri's other pursuits include hosting monthly online karaoke on her publisher's FB platform, The Word is Write. Connect with her on Facebook at Terri Rose Jertson and on Instagram at @thechameleonpoetic

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