

Spoken Word Poem
Written by Amanda Barnes

To all the men out there, I speak to you
I want you to see me, see my truth

Know that I am a person of equal rights,
Not an object to be used at night

And, KNOW that I have the RIGHT,
To walk the streets at NIGHT,
And not feel AFRAID

AFRAID that I – a lonely woman –
Will be attacked
And then blamed for what I LACK
Namely, the FACT that I don't have a Y chromosome

And because of that – I need to *worry*
About what I wear,
So that I don't cause others to stare
And act on their lack of self-control

And I KNOW, *I know* that I will be blamed
[Patsy] – that I will be blamed
[Sarah] – that I will be blamed
[Carly-Anne] – that I will be blamed
And feel ashamed.

Because it doesn't matter,
Who you are or what you wear,
It is YOUR fault that they stared

That they acted,
They couldn't help themselves!

That they *took a piece of you* that you can't get BACK,
All because of what you LACKED – common sense

[Pause]

Because everybody knows,
[Patsy] that if you wear a skirt – you deserved to be rapped
[Sarah] that if you are promiscuous – than you can't be rapped
[Carly] that if you are attacked by your partner – than it is not rape

[Amanda] that if you're drunk – it's your fault that you weren't safe

[Longer Pause]

Now I know that you don't believe this,
That you see it isn't true,
So I ask you, stand by me and FIGHT FOR THE TRUTH

[Patsy] Be an ally,

[Sarah] Be a friend,

[Carly-Anne] But most important – [All] be a REAL man