

A World Nothing Like Mine

by Mariana Martinez Caloca

Maybe her curfew won't be until nine

Maybe she will walk the streets when it's awfully quiet

Maybe she won't pretend to be on the phone, when a tall man is walking by her, when she is all alone

She won't get unsolicited, unnecessary, and inappropriate commentary from older men

She won't get "maninterrupted" over a senseless rant

She won't get catcalled as she walks by, a car won't stop to kindly offer her a ride

Her mom won't justify his step dad's sexist and misogynistic jokes; inappropriate indiscretions won't be taken all in good fun

Her 7th grade math teacher won't have to watch her from beyond; she will be served justice for those lives, that are now gone

Her body and soul won't belong to those men who only leave behind their wallets and bones

Woman won't disappear every day; their mothers won't be tearing, tears of despair

They won't be punished for walking outside, for having opinions or driving a car

They won't be forced to cover their hair; they won't be beaten until they lay dead

Woman will get to live, and not just survive

This world that I hope for, looks nothing like mine

Maybe her "NO" will be actually taken as a "NO" and not as an invitation to force her to say "Yes"

Maybe her world isn't focused around protecting daughters, rather it will educate their sons

Maybe her eyes will look just like her mum's; I hope this new world I dream of does her no wrong

She will hear the screams of our rage, the loud noises we made just for her

She will be believed, unlike I was

She will live in a world that looks nothing like ours

Her mind won't even recall what the patriarchy took from us all

Her opinion will be loud to all, and very clear, though I'm proud of her I'll try not to tear

Her ears will only seem to hear the echoes of us who first lived here, in order for her
new world to appear

Being a woman won't be a liability, won't be a crime

The life she is living looks nothing like mine.

Mariana Martinez Caloca (she/her) was born in Mexico City. She is the daughter of Jose Luis Martinez Perez, an employment lawyer and a notable activist for labour rights. Mariana's involvement in feminist activism started from a young age. Her first direct contact with femicide was at age 14 when her math teacher Susana Garrido was brutally stabbed to death by her ex-husband. This moment marked Mariana's life as she hopes to obtain justice for her beloved teacher. When Mariana moved to Canada in August 2021, she vowed to continue with her work in the feminist movement and to bring attention to the unfortunate reality of many Latin American women.