

Home of the Brave? Not Anymore

We see the bullies.

They wear the MAGA hats, drive the trucks with the “Fuck Biden” bumper stickers. They fly “try and take my gun” banners. They stormed the Capitol on January 6. They’re the people who want to ban books, harass election workers and threaten voters. One broke into Nancy Pelosi’s home and assaulted her husband.

The biggest bully is the President-elect of the United States. The guy who vows retribution on anyone that disagrees with him. The guy who told the press he wanted to put Liz Cheney in front of a firing squad.

The cowards hide in plain sight.

They’re those who support a woman’s right to choose, but don’t speak up. They’re the closet Democrats living in MAGA neighborhoods who don’t put up a Harris for President lawn sign for fear of being ostracized. They’re the country club members who passively look on as racists call the vice-president a ‘nigger bitch’ in the locker room. They’re the church going folks wearing the cross necklaces who preach morality then vote for a criminal and a rapist.

They’re those who want their daughter to have all the rights like their son, but have high-paying jobs in conservative-run companies so they look away at blatant sexism. They’re the owners of successful businesses, built on the backs of immigrants, who stay silent on the plan for mass deportations.

The fear is palpable.

It’s the young woman with has some medical issues but wants to start a family. She lives in a state that does not recognize a woman’s right to an abortion and punishes doctors who fail to head the warning. What happens if there are complications with her pregnancy?

It’s the young mother with a 17 year old daughter who is going away to college next fall. How will she be treated by the son’s of men who think grabbing them by the pussy is ok?

It’s the undocumented family that has been in the country for ten years. She and her husband own a small landscaping business, a home, and their children go to public schools. What if they come for them?

It’s the young couple with a two year old daughter. When their daughter grows up will she be treated as property, as they do in some other countries? Is a “*Handmaid’s Tale*” way of life in her daughter’s future?

It's the grandmother, in her 60's, who was part of the fight to obtain equal rights for women. Was the fight a waste of time? Will her granddaughters have the same rights as she did, the rights that she and her sisters fought for?

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The bullies, as they always do, sow the fear. But the cowards are complicit. This cancer of cowardice has brought our Democracy to the tipping point. Far too few Americans confront oppressors.

They watch MAGA intimidation and say nothing. They watch the president-elect insult women, immigrants, veterans, the disabled, the Latino's, every minority, then just shrug their shoulders and vote for him anyway. They don't bother to go to the polls, or leave the top of the ballot blank. Either apathetic, willfully ignorant, paralyzed by fear, or sheltered by wealth and privilege to take a stand.

Not what made America great.

Count me as one who is afraid. Afraid that far too many people in this country lack the moral courage to do what's right. To speak up, stand up, confront the bullies, protect the powerless. To, as Ted Kennedy said in the eulogy for his brother Robert F. Kennedy, "Be good and decent. To see wrong and try to right it, see suffering and try to heal it, see war and try to stop it."

America was born because its people and the leaders were brave and fought oppressors. It will fail because a majority of its people and politicians are now cowards and elected tyranny.

The bullies have won.

That's all I'm sayin'

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