

Fighter for Female Freedom - Nellie McLung

By Feyi Ogunkoya

It is 1870. No women to vote,
no freedom.
They would look at us as if we were objects,
to not speak unless spoken to.
Our already miniscule voices- drowned out by the sounds of what they wanted or needed.
We said, "can I go out with you?"
More like, "are you done the dishes?"
Irrelevant is the word that we would have been described as and
our houses and the children possibly in it were what we were bound by.
The shadows of our husbands hanging over us like a dark cloud.
Who we were was determined by who we were with.
Men were all fine and dandy as long as they lifted a hammer or were productive in one way, or
another,
but did they ever think to lift their conscience or ponder as to what their wives were doing?
No, no
Society was pro-male and there was nothing a female could do about it.
Life was dreary, until a luminous soul broke through the cloudy skies.
One day, somebody decided that enough was enough.
One day, men and women, males and females, could and would be equals.
That luminous soul was Nellie McLung.
Born in Ontario and raised in Manitoba,
she was proud to be a liberator of all sorts.
She was a wife, a daughter, a sister, and a loving mother.
She moved from Manitoba to Winnipeg to Vancouver Island,
Just to see to it that her mission was accomplished.
The voice of Nellie McLung and many others rang from coast to coast.
More and more individuals joined the mentally and physically challenging battle with a fighter
for female freedom.
For years people struggled with the thought of seeing women anywhere they pleased
as a total norm.
"Women are going to form a chain, a greater sisterhood than the world has ever known," said
Nellie McLung. Now, decades later,
humanity has achieved her wish.
Mrs. McLung was and still is a hero.
She was able to inspire lots of people.
Most importantly? She was able to inspire me.
Patience, perseverance, and courage,
all components of a hero.
Every day you see injustices brought down on women,
the idea of dowry and unethical wages,
but because of people like her, women can wake up in the morning and feel good about it.
Making it clear though her actions and what she was to other people that there is no shame
in being a woman.

She waited for people to stop and really think about what life was like for women.
Day after day, she put her life on the line and never once thought to back out.
She's also made it clear to, "never explain, never retract, never apologize. Just get the thing done and let them howl."
She had the confidence to stand up to do what is right.
When your head is in the right place,
you let people retort but you still get it done.
In my book? Pretty amazing.
From sit ins to peacefully protesting,
she did it all.
"Women who set a low value for themselves
makes life hard for all women."
Women have proven time and time again-
We are stronger than you think!
When we are not confident in ourselves how are we supposed to make others like us feel
confident in turn?
When our closest female friends' backs are turned, why do we gossip and vise-versa?
Why aren't we building each other up instead of tearing each other down?
Hopefully, all the bloodshed, fighting, and tears were worth it.
Because she was.
Women's place in society is
in a better place because of her,
and all female liberators.
Because of a fighter for female freedom.
"Never underestimate the power of a woman" were her words.
The words of a fighter for female freedom.

Citations

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