

Two Poems by Jenny Footle

You Don't Owe Them Your Decency

By Jenny Footle

Kill them with kindness is what he would have said
Remain calm, always be the one in control
Don't fuel their fire or give them something to go off of

Be blameless

When they blow up just smile,
Make them realize they're acting crazy and irrational
You're just standing there
Calm.

Well fuck you!
You did make me go fucking crazy
With your gaslighting
Your lack of words
Lack of emotion
Your actions that screamed you were afraid of losing control
Of me
Afraid of my power, beauty, what I am capable of
That I might use it
To not benefit you

But me

And my people, my community, and not you

You selfish, prideful, piece of work

But I'm sure you don't know what I'm talking about

Or why I'm upset

No worries, I have ZERO interest in explaining myself

Giving any of myself

To you.

I'm Staying Here

By Jenny Footle

I can't make you go away,

I have to just wait for you to disappear.

But I can make myself go away

And I can make myself disappear

But what if I don't

What if I'm tired of being the one to go away

What if I stay

When you pushed me

I reclaimed my place

Reclaimed my peace
With trembling hands
And a deep knowing
I can be here

I don't have to leave
This is my home, my community, my future
And you can't just move in
You can't have it
You can't consume me
You can make my life hell for a minute
Because you like to share that part of yourself with others
But I won't have it
I have no room for it
And you can take it back to your space
I am here.