

Blair Necessities

Yesterday at 9:34am ·

For international women's day I am going to tell you all a story that causes me some disquiet about celebrating this particular day.

When I was back in Ecuador as an adult I visited with a friend of my fathers and his family on a trip to their cattle ranch high up in the Andes mountains. The scenery was spectacular and glorious, there is nothing like being on those mountains for me, there was wind so loud I could hear it, it swooshed by so hard my cheeks were quickly windburned. Then I sat in the grass and there were these tiny pink berries buried in the grass, a slightly sweet taste that I hadn't forgotten after a 20 year absence. I had loved these kinds experiences on my own family ranch when I was little, and I was so grateful to be able to experience them again.

UNTIL

I saw the wife, a woman - a woman of means, take off her shoe and hit the male ranch hand, a man with far less means than the family, a man they had hired to care for the ranch while they lived in the city. She hit him because he had not been able to do something by the time we arrived. She did this in front of his wife and kids, in front of her own family, in front of me, a guest. His family and their stoic faces as she beat him about the head and shoulders are still with me today. I was horrified. The husband, my fathers friend, was mortified that she did this in front of me, but did not speak up. I did not speak up.

Considering the caste system that is in place in that part of the world, I am not sure what my speaking up would have accomplished. However, I still feel shame; shame that I did not speak up and shame that it was a woman that was behaving so atrociously.

Here is why I am sharing this story though, because women, like men, can be awful. I want to illustrate how much work there is to do in creating a world I am not led to shame because of my gender through my own behaviour and the behaviour of my fellow women.

So, I ask you today, all of you, be beholden to how you treat others, regardless of gender, regardless of caste. We all carry kindness and gentleness within us, and let us all move together in that.

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Friend How refreshing to read an original piece and not something passed around with instructions to share by pressing or asking for an amen. Thank you. And I agree with you wholeheartedly.

Like · Reply · 6 · Yesterday at 9:41am



Friend Indeed.

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 9:41am



Friend THIS!!! Thank you for sharing!

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 9:49am



Friend Absolutely agree with you! In our travels and here in the USA I too have witnessed this kind of humiliation and have left a job because of how one woman in charge made my coworkers cry. We can and must be kind to each other no matter what! Thank you for this Mija!

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 10:00am



Friend Beautiful, you may write your own speeches. I've been unusually aware of differences I usually don't notice in society and people. I guess I'm glad I notice but not that people do it in the 1st place. It's another thing to try and change. Thx.

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 10:10am



Friend Thanks for sharing. Sometimes we get caught up in things and forget we are all human good and bad.

Like · Reply · 1 · Yesterday at 10:31am



Friend My eyes were opened to just how insulated, spoiled, ungrateful we as American citizens (and honestly probably applies to all industrialized nations) are when I was down in Haiti back in the mid 90's. We as nation even with its faults are leaps and bounds ahead of many parts of the world.

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 10:55am



Friend Thank you for sharing this story Blair.

Like · Reply · 23 hours ago



Friend Thank you. ❤️

Like · Reply · 23 hours ago



Friend Many Blessings to you Blair! Thank you for your friendship & for sharing your story! Love to you across many miles!

Like · Reply · 23 hours ago



Friend Thank you Blair for taking the time to tell this story and for showing both the light and dark side of things so that we may be enlightened 🙏🏻 sat nam sister!

Like · Reply · 22 hours ago



relative Well said. It happens all over

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Redacted So you have disquiet about celebrating the empowerment of women the world over because of a single incident by a bad woman 20 years ago. This just perpetuates the patriarchal notion that women have to be faultless to be found in favor.

Sorry, Indian sweatshop workers, sorry, single moms doing what you can, a rich lady slapped a worker once and therefore a privileged Western white woman feels uncomfortable with you having one day to be celebrated.

Like · Reply · 23 hrs

Hide 15 Replies



Blair Necessities And another western white woman to rip my own personal feelings - you could have asked why I feel disquiet before this little verbal attack.

Like · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs



Redacted So there's another reason besides the one you wrote down?

Like · Reply · 23 hrs



Blair Necessities I never gave my reason - I told the story about what it is based on.

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Redacted That makes no sense- you said you were disquieted by the actions on that ranch- if that's not it, I don't get the point of the story

Like · Reply · 23 hrs



Friend Please, stop 🙏🏻

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Redacted You know, I will stop, because heaven knows I don't want to make any comfortable women uncomfortable: that would be the WORST

Like · Reply · 22 hrs



Redacted Like the incident was a gender issue and not a class issue, I mean come on.

Like · Reply · 22 hrs



friend Holy cow - what a hateful comment made on a post that specifically said, be kind and treat others with kindness. Please pause for a moment Redacted and see that you are attacking one of the best people I have ever come across in my life and not only because she is kind and intelligent, but because she is active in public service and empowers women and others in everything she does. I'm ashamed to even read what you wrote.

Like · Reply · 5 · 22 hrs · Edited



Redacted I'm not attacking anybody- I'm disagreeing. And I support women around the world in their quest for full personhood no matter if individual women make me uncomfortable.

Like · Reply · 22 hrs



friend Did your comment make people feel uncomfortable and perhaps the author sad? Well then you are not just disagreeing you are attacking.

Like · Reply · 2 · 22 hrs · Edited



Redacted Nope- and I'm astonished at the fragility of all you empowered feminists.

Like · Reply · 1 · 22 hrs



friend Sorry, but you're a troll Cindy.

Like · Reply · 1 · 22 hrs



Redacted Oh, okay

Like · Reply · 22 hrs



friend from hs Amazing! Hugs!!!

Like · Reply · 21 hrs



friend Blair, I hope you simply delete that crazy gal's accusatory ugliness. Adult filter: the thing that you use to NOT argue with someone you clearly don't know...on social media

Blair, You are brave to share this sad story, intelligent to try to right a wrong and kind to use it to illustrate how much we need more love & kindness. Blair, you are the best example of a wise bucket filler. You are always pulling

for other women! You are a public servant extraordinaire!!         

Like · Reply · 3 · 15 hrs



friend We human beings have come a long way...

...but we still have a long way yet ahead of us.

Like · Reply · 23 hrs



friend Let me tell you another story Blair. Some years ago at a Bosom Buddies board meeting, a well respected physician was updating us on the latest news in breast cancer. He was talking about BRCA 1/2 and commented about Jewish women having a high incidence of the so called breast cancer gene. He went on to state something to the effect "all they do is have babies, they shouldn't be allowed to breed." I, as a Jewish woman, sat in stunned silence. But...not you. You spoke up and told this Harvard trained physician in no uncertain terms, how patently offensive his statement was. I have been in awe of your forthrightness ever since.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 11 · 22 hrs



Redacted It would have been great to use this story, instead of asking us all to be completely circumspect at all times so Blair wouldn't feel ashamed of her gender.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 22 hrs



Blair Necessities Karen, thank you so very much for sharing about a time I showed strength. I had forgotten about this until you recalled it.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 · 1 hr



friend It was the first thing that popped into my mind when I read your post. So much of the work we have done together has benefited from your ability to articulate so fluently. It is always fun to be with you.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · 1 hr



Friend Let me tell you a story about a very kind, exceptionally kind, woman who told a story of how she witnessed a person being humiliated when she was young and how it made such an impression on her she asked that people be kind to everyone..... man or woman!

Even ones that don't get it!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 · 21 hrs



Redacted read this last paragraph: she's asking everyone to behave how she WANTS them to, so she won't feel uncomfortable, or "ashamed of her gender." That's the epitome of white privilege. I'm never ashamed of my gender, regardless of any other women. I will not be told to be ladylike so it doesn't upset someone else- that's a tool of the patriarchy.

There are women , billions of them , living on a dollar a day, maybe, without clean water, or sanitary conditions for their children. Many are brilliant, with no opportunities, etc.

It's not about anyone's feelings. It's not about me, or you, or Blair . It's about not shitting on an entire movement, for just one day.

Fuck my feelings, your feelings, and Blair's feelings. And don't ever ask the world to not ever make you uncomfortable- nobody has the right to not be uncomfortable. Not ever.



Like · Reply · 20 hrs · Edited



Redacted And again, I am astonished by the amount of fragility on display here by women who don't have the struggle that the great majority of the worlds women do. Buck up.

Like · Reply · 20 hrs



Redacted " I saw something bad a woman did once, and therefore all women are required to behave how I wish, so as to make me comfortable and not ashamed of my gender, and make them worth praising to me." And you people are praising this, when really, it's kind of disgusting.

Like · Reply · 20 hrs · Edited



friend I'm certain you must be unstable since you are unable to drop this. You are the only one fighting. Stop. Please. You are embarrassing yourself.

Like · Reply · 1 · 18 hrs



family I read Blair's remembrance and had to think back over the years and remember all the tragedies that Blair has faced with bravery in her life. We may talk about privilege but that doesn't mean we face no hardships, that does not mean that tragedy and poverty pass us by. I am proud she asked us to remember and be kind. The world would be better off if we remembered to be kind and to stand up against bigotry, as Blair has done time after time.

Like · Reply · 10 · 18 hrs



friend Your daughter has such a grateful .!! Blair, a gift from you to all of us lucky enough to call her friend!!

Like · Reply · 15 hrs



friend Some people, men and women, talk too much. Blair, I love you. Keep sharing your stories. Oh, and play your "Unfriend" card. 😊

Like · Reply · 2 · 17 hrs



Blair Necessities I don't unfriend people, but it seems she does.

Like · Reply · 2 · 17 hrs



friend Ironically, her FB quote is, "You don't like it, unfriend me."

What a tiresome, blow hard.

Like · Reply · 3 · 17 hrs



Friend Good one!

Like · Reply · 17 hrs



Nancy Adams Barnes Thank you Blair....we are cut from the same cloth.

Like · Reply · 17 hrs



friend Friends of Blair unite! I am stunned by this vitriol from Redacted!! Blair, just hugs and love, because you give so much to all of us!!

Like · Reply · 5 · 15 hrs



relative Who is Redacted and what was she drinking. What an over reaction to a memory and what does it have to do with anything but vitriol

Like · Reply · 2 · 15 hrs



friend What utter bullshit! Blair, for me your story spoke of caste & class, not necessarily gender. She behaved horribly, you did not stand up for the ranch hand. I hear you. We have all prob been in a situation where we as women should have spoken up. Clearly, Redacted(bless her heart) missed the point of your personal story/memory.

Like · Reply · 2 · 14 hrs



Blair Necessities It was indirectly about gender - my thoughts were prompted after seeing several posts about how "they were not celebrating IWD by wearing red/boycotting work/etc." all negative, all directly and indirectly calling out

other women who are not like minded and I thought as I read post after post "why are we taking each other down?" I would hope that in the spirit of lifting women up that we would allow each of us to deal with the "day" as we see fit and as fits our lives. And that caused me disquiet, or worry - how can we set an example when we can behave so pettily.

Women, however, can be very cruel. I then posted an example that has long resonated with me about how awful women can be, and how I as a woman failed in my social responsibility (and how it calls me to action) of the situation though I don't know what I could have done that would have prompted any lasting change. It was a vulnerable thing for me to admit, I like to think of myself as a fighter for people, but I don't think I was in this instance. I was hoping to say, and it appears that I failed, that we are so much better than the petty behaviour we as women often fall to.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 · 2 hrs



friend Does Redacted even know you, or has she ever been blessed with the very presence of your goodness?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 hrs



Blair Necessities Yes, we went to high school together. The irony is that the last words she ever said to my face was something to the effect of "You know, I really don't like you". When she sent a friend request a few years ago, I figured she had gotten past whatever it was that she despised in me. Apparently not.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 hrs



friend So bizarre...I'm so sorry that you had to be bombarded with her behavior on such a beautiful profound post...

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 hrs



friend I'm thinking there is some crazy jealousy at play here, how could anyone not LOVE you?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 hrs



Friend Her loss! Jealous of you? Possibly. Sure doesn't know you... you are the most forgiving, encompassing, generous person I've known in a long long time!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · 2 hrs



Friend Maybe in the future you should preface these kinds of posts as containing possible emotional triggers.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 hrs



friend My first thought was, "some people really don't change from that 15 year old from long ago."

I hope she and those around her have a better day after she had gotten that all out of her system, whatever she had to work out for herself.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · 1 hr



Blair Necessities I have that very same hope, and am trying to feel honored enough that she felt safe enough with me to dispense of all that vitriol.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 hr



Blair Necessities Let me emphasize, trying!

Like · Reply · 1 hr



friend Oh I'm sure she's been "honoring" a lot of people for the last 30 years.

Like · Reply · 1 hr