

Why I can't abide Trump post

To my Republican friends and family who may not understand why I am so passionate, so angry, and sometimes so blunt about what is happening in this country, I want to try to explain where I'm coming from and why I protest, why I advocate and why I think voting is so GD important.

My anger didn't start yesterday, and it isn't because someone simply has a different political opinion than me. I have friends I disagree with about taxes, guns, government spending, immigration, healthcare, and a hundred other things. I don't expect everyone to think like me, vote like me, or see the world exactly as I do.

But for more than twenty years, I've watched people on the right say absolutely horrible things about Obama, Biden, Hillary, Kamala, immigrants, gay people, transgender people, Muslims, and anyone else they decided was the enemy that week. I watched the racism during the Obama years. I watched the lies, the conspiracy theories, the personal attacks, and the cruelty. And through all of it, people like me were constantly told to be the bigger person, find common ground, stop being divisive, and try to understand the other side.

I tried. For years.

But at some point, silence stops being maturity and starts becoming permission. I think the greatest threat to Democracy is complacency.

I want to be clear about something. I don't believe every Republican or every person who voted for Trump is a racist or a horrible human being. I know that's not true. I have Republican friends and family members who I still care about. But I do believe every one of us is responsible for what we are willing to excuse, defend, normalize, or ignore in the people we give power to.

And this is where I need people to understand me. What is happening now goes far beyond policy for me.

Trump is not simply a president whose tax policy or immigration policy I disagree with. I don't believe it's intellectually honest to pretend that what we're witnessing is just another chapter in the normal back and forth between Democrats and Republicans. I've never believed Democrats are above criticism or incapable of corruption, in fact I've seen plenty to get upset about. I think our entire political system is broken. I believe there is corruption on both sides. I believe we need term limits, younger leaders, more accountability, and a government that actually represents ordinary people instead of billionaires, corporations, and career politicians. But saying "both sides are bad" cannot become an excuse for refusing to recognize when something has crossed a line.

So I keep coming back to one simple question.

Imagine if Obama had done and said the same things Trump has. Imagine if Obama had behaved this way, surrounded himself with these people, attacked the courts, the press, political opponents, and anyone who challenged him. Imagine if Obama had spoken about women, immigrants, and entire groups of people the way Trump has.

Would the same people defending Trump today have told the rest of us to calm down, find common ground, stop being divisive, and quit the infighting?

Not a chance.

And that's a big part of where my anger comes from. It's the hypocrisy. It's watching people excuse behavior from Trump that they would have considered treasonous, immoral, or completely disqualifying from Obama or any Democrat. It's watching people who spent decades

preaching about family values, law and order, personal responsibility, patriotism, and Christian morality suddenly abandon those principles when they became inconvenient.

I'm also tired of being told that condemning cruelty is somehow just as divisive as the cruelty itself.

When people laugh about immigrants suffering, celebrate families being torn apart, mock people who are different from them, or say someone deserved to be hurt or killed because of their politics or immigration status, I'm not interested in finding the middle ground between cruelty and decency. There isn't one.

My anger doesn't come from someone merely having a different opinion than me. My anger comes from watching cruelty become entertainment, racism get dismissed as politics, corruption get excused as long as the right person is doing it, and basic human suffering treated like something to laugh about.

And yes, I am angry. Sometimes I am furious. Sometimes my words are harsh, blunt, and offensive. I can own that. I can own every word I say without pretending that my anger came out of nowhere.

Because it didn't.

It came from twenty+ years of watching people bully, belittle, insult, and dehumanize others, only to suddenly ask for civility and understanding when someone finally fights back. It came from watching the same people who spent years calling others snowflakes suddenly become outraged when they're confronted with their own words and choices. It came from being told over and over again that I need to understand their anger, their fears, their beliefs, and their values, while so little effort is made to understand mine.

So no, I'm not going to be quiet. I'm not going to pretend all of this is normal just to make people more comfortable. I'm not going to back down from standing up for people who are being dehumanized, bullied, or harmed simply because speaking up makes someone angry.

I have spent years being told to understand the other side. At some point, the other side needs to explain what they are willing to stand for, and what they are willing to excuse.

I don't expect this post to change anyone's mind. That's not really the point. The point is to explain mine.

I love many people who vote differently than I do. I respect many people I disagree with. But respect does not require silence, friendship does not require surrendering my values, and unity does not mean pretending that cruelty, corruption, racism, hypocrisy, and the abuse of power are simply differences of opinion.

I am speaking up because I care about what kind of country we leave behind. I care about my family, my friends, my children, my grandchild, and generations I will never meet. I care about people who don't have the platform or the privilege to defend themselves. I care about people who are frightened, marginalized, bullied, or treated as if their lives have less value than someone else's.

That's why I'm passionate. That's why I'm angry. That's why I'm blunt.

My husband and I share these convictions. And that's why I'm not backing down