

# BE BRAVE, SHINE ANYWAY



This month, I find myself reminded of a lesson the universe just won't let me forget—like walking into the same wall until I finally realize it's time to walk around it. My friend Elmarie often jokes that my guardian angel is so tired of guiding me, she's practically hitting me over the head with reminders by now!

Here's the truth that keeps showing up: I don't need to dim my light for anyone. There was a time when a former boss told me I shined too brightly. He actually said he wouldn't acknowledge my successes until he could "knock me back to the ground." Those words crushed me, making me question my worth and wonder if I needed to shrink to fit in.

But life, in its beautiful way, brought me to a new firm where my current boss sat across from me and said, "You shine so bright—how can I help you shine even brighter?"

That moment opened my eyes: sometimes, your light will torment the shadows others carry—and that is their problem, not yours.

The universe tested me again recently. I was thrilled to be considered for a remarkable opportunity where someone valued my light and wanted me to help build something great. I poured my heart into preparing for the role, excited about the chance to contribute in a meaningful way. But as things progressed, someone who felt threatened by my presence tried to undermine my credibility and question whether I deserved the opportunity at all.

At first, I wrestled with the familiar questions: Why can't they just let me be? Why do I have to fight to prove my worth when I know I'm capable? It hurt, deeply. But in that pain, I realized something powerful: I didn't have to prove anything to anyone. I chose to step away, knowing that opportunities grounded in insecurity aren't the ones worth chasing.

Just when I started doubting myself again, the universe stepped in with a powerful reminder. An unexpected message arrived—a major sponsor for our Be Brave event in Namibia, expressing how much they admire my mission to empower women. It was a beautiful nudge, saying, keep shining. There will always be those who challenge your light—but that's okay. Shine brighter anyway. 🌟