

I Wonder Why

At 6 years old
I was called bossy
for the same reason
the boys were called leaders
and I wondered why

At 8 years old
I listened as boys told their friends
that they ran like a girl
that they threw like a girl
as if it was the worst thing you could be called
and I wondered why

At 10 years old
we did push ups in gym
if you couldn't do them
you were told to put your knees on the ground
and do girl push ups
and I wondered why

At 12 years old
I wasn't chosen
to carry the heavy boxes
because the teacher had asked
for the big strong boys
and I wondered why

At 13 years old
I was challenged
when I said I liked football
they fired off questions
to prove that a girl
couldn't like a sport she wasn't allowed to play
and they were shocked when I answered them
and I wondered why

At 15 years old
girls are told to cover their shoulders

and to not wear shorts that are too short
they're sent home if they do
because it'll distract the boys
because their education is more valuable than my own
and I wondered why

At 16 years old
I watched as society came up with more and more rules
that girls were expected to follow
about the way they looked
and the way they acted
and the things they could and couldn't like
and the things they could and couldn't do
and they had to be skinny enough
and pretty enough
and if they didn't follow these rules
they're not good enough
and I wondered why

Now at 18 years old
I watch the world ask
why so many girls starve themselves
why so many girls "try so hard"
and why so many girls lose themselves
trying to achieve something that doesn't exist
and when those girls decide not be here anymore
the world wonders why