

\* International womxn's day \*

A 'not so celebratory message': to all the men who made me ill

CW: sexual violence

'Dear' Men (who made me ill),

Last week I found myself (yet) again in the hospital for some blood tests. My GP and me discussed my chronic pain a couple of days before and both me and her are struggling to pin point where all my pain and fatigue is coming from...

We tried to blame it on my neurodivergent brain, my sleep, my eat, my parent's DNA, even the factory behind my childhood's house came up.

Then, we talked about traumatic experiences in my life and how the violence my body endured can store a pain, so strong, that it will ache a life long.

So, here is my thanks to the men that made me ill (and also to those not mentioned here today but are still making me ill every day...)

1. To the man that raped me on the cold bathroom floor, while I was intoxicated.
2. To the man that raped me in my own bed in an Italian Monastery, while a Madonna-painting hung above my bed.
3. To the man that forced me into an hours-long rape-journey and threatened to kill me.

If you read this and think: oh well, but that's not me - maybe not? But maybe one of these men is your (best) friend, your co-worker, your neighbour or who knows...

Have a safe journey out their fellow feminists. We have a long march to go.

