THE RED LIPSTICK

BY ALEXA CARUSO
I WENT TO SCHOOL AND GOT CHANGED FOR GYM CLASS.

I REMEMBER DOING MY MAKEUP THAT MORNING. I WORE RED LIPSTICK.

TO HAVE ONE OF THE BOYS LOOK AT ME UP AND DOWN AND SAY:

YOU CAN’T WEAR RED LIPSTICK AND BE CASUAL.
I'm a white, cis gender woman from a well off part of the country. I'm extremely privileged.

But it still sparked something in me. I wasn't going to be told how I should dress.

It would be hard to call that incident an injustice.

When I went to school that day I felt confident in a way I hadn't before. One person wasn't going to take that away.

So wearing red lipstick became my form of protest.
There are many ways that people protest injustice and oppression in their everyday lives.

Some protest by speaking out.

Some protest by marching.

My choice.

Some protest by simply existing.

We all have different forms of protest that make us feel empowered - that we use to enact change.

So, whatever your red lipstick is, find it -
- AND STAND TALL.

STAND PROUD.

women's rights ARE HUMAN RIGHTS.

STAND TOGETHER.