

IN TRUTH : PART III

Her escape route held her firmly and deprived her of what she needed most. The Fourth Estate perversely rewarded her restless behaviours. Contingent on her contracts, always of indefinite duration, she began frequently accommodating a change of city or nation. Her passion was for great stories, and she travelled on assignment to find them. Chasing a story gave her new life. As an outsider dropping in off the beaten track, ordinary people and small details caught her eye. Her editors were only interested in whether her writing was concise, authoritative, and beautiful. When she spoke truth to power, she dared something, and had the adventure of honing her art. If her pieces were intellectual, it never showed. Those who said that truth wouldn't sell were wrong. Differentiating between reporting and comment, she wrote prodigiously and well. She'd learned the journalism of "if it bleeds, it leads" and "most people lie as if telling the truth", but she preferred to nurture the virtuous, heroic, and uplifting. Her writing had spark, clarity, maturity, and wisdom. She did not seek exploits but rather strived to show the upside to steer the world toward greater good. Like a Samaritan, she never used "I" in a sentence and never wanted to be the story. Neutral, she became useful to those trying to reach out.

Am knew that her power lay in her ability to navigate with confidence, easing society's codes and expectations. The choice between power and powerlessness was clear. Her protection was the strength to disengage and melt into her surroundings. Living largely through words in the same way as those generally good at languages do, she preserved her mother tongue, regardless of how long she'd been away from her homeland. That first language was bound up with her deeper identity, memories, and sense of self. She was developing the ability to live only in the present. Her reporting was intelligent, measured and resourceful, so her profile as a journalist rose. She viewed global events, always an alien, a foreign plant, and the longer she stayed away from her native land, the more rooted she felt, released from her burden of nation and history.