



*Being free from influence that controls what we do
Is a promise we've made to each other
It's important to help, but I must stand alone
Please don't boss, please don't shout, please don't smother.*

*If I make a mistake I must fix it myself
But it's hard to resist the intrusion
Of a well-meaning act that's intended to stop
Me from causing regrets or confusion.*

*When I'm in a place I've not been before
And I'm anxious about the upheaval
I feel in my heart or show on my face
Let me walk, on my own, strong not feeble.*

*It is tempting to spare the one that you love
The effects of a man-made disaster
But if I want to be at the top of my game
It is I who must learn how to master*

*The lessons of life - what's expected of me
Even when "on the way" makes me weary
How else will I be independent and strong
Knowing how, standing firm, with you near me?*

*Whenever I manage to discard the "script"
I depend on just for good measure
I reap the rewards of standing alone
That instills a profound sense of pleasure.*

*So let me keep moving ahead with my life
With your love and your prayers near to guide me
But when I fall down, let me pick myself up
Let me learn, let me try, walk beside me.*

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From *Marriage is a Balance Beam*, a book of poetry by Carole Bos.

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Respecting Independence

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