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| Mary Black- I will not be quiet <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mckR6TYKaVc> I will not be quiet 1We as indigenous women have so much to loseTo exist in silence while our people drown themselves in boozeTrying to erase the memories of a damaged generation 5But it’s easier to stay quiet than to heal an entire nation so we sufferI will not be quietOur families were forced to keep our mouths closedAnd until we choose to speak 10The outside world cannot begin to know how deeply and how badly We still feel the painHow the patterns strain my brain Leave me feeling insane 15Cause I carry a world of hurt on my shouldersAnd the heaviness only increases as I get olderSo I will not be quietOr try to hide the cycles of repetition 20That our families and our communities have been perpetually living inI refuse to carry the guilt or the shame from being sexually abusedBy the system in place that was created 25with the intention of keeping us safeNo,I will not shut upAnd I will not sit down until our 1200 missing sisters are foundI will scream 30I will scream and I will yell because they have been silencedI will fight the silent battle with our women against violenceAnd the most violent and benevolent being 35could not keep me from speaking the true meaning of freeI will not be quietAs the system steals our babies and keeps us living with less 40The genocide isn’t over it just has a new nameCFS No, When they told us they’d keep us safe they liedIf this was the case why are there so many suicidesWhy did my best friend suffer so deeply inside 45That he felt the need to take his own life?When he hadn’t even lived yet?Why do our parents carry so much regret?Why has so much damage come to our women? | Why at the age of 12 50did I become a victim of sexual assault?And not just me but so many of my friends and my family?Women and girls who are beautiful beyond explanationTheir bodies to become used and abusedJust another violation on an indigenous woman 55Why are 75% of us raped?Why are our houses constantly surrounded by yellow tape?See, the system was designed to have us take our own lives 60To keep the blood-stained hands of the guilty cleanAnd keep the death on the hands of our children and our babiesAnd as long as we are idle and silent Our children will keep dying 65Because they are surrounded by violenceViolence and addictionsConfused by the abuse and how badly they must hurtTo want to tie a noose around their neck or stick a gun to their head 70While at the same time some pale-faced children lie peacefully in their bedsWhile our babies are dyingWhile our children are cryingUntil we speak and stand up as a family 75We are going to keep losing our girls to the streetsAnd our lives will be conquered by the blood that we seeAnd instead of the knowledgeOur children will seek to erase 80the history of our dear grandparents deceasedWho died in rage at the people we would turn out to beCause without our knowledge, stories and our traditionWe have become the ones who caged us in this hell 85We are living inSo no, I will not be quiet. |