## Respecting Independence





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.

Author: Carole D. Bos

## Credits:

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

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