

*Momma always said baby use your
mouth, use your words, for too long
we have been silenced -reflective-*

“Thank you for joining us. My name
is Gayle King. I’m sitting here today
with Robert Kelly, also known as R.
Kelly.

Though Mr. Kelly is an
award-winning singer, songwriter,
and producer, we won’t be discussing
his music today.

*Im Sorry if I'm not the rape poem
you're used to
Not
Western Beauty standard
Too black woman strong for you to
imagine forced,
held down,
controlled.
I thought*

He was kind, well respected. As two
black students at one of the nation’s
most prestigious PWIs, my RAPIST
and I knew each other well. He was
hard-working, charming and I
considered him a friend. I’ve tried to
convince myself that it didn’t really
happen.

I was raped by a black man. I am
afraid to tell this story for fear of
being called a traitor
*because As black women, we’re
supposed to protect our men, our
community.*

we’re here to talk about his recent
arrest on ten counts of aggravated
criminal sexual assault. The

Department of Justice estimates that
one in every six white women will
report their rape while only one in
sixteen black women will report
theirs. Is this a recent phenomenon,
or learned behavior from past
generations? Mr. Kelly, what do you
have to say for yourself?”

Is this camera on-

Is this camera on me?

Gayle, I have been - assassinated.
Why would I be handcuffing
people, starving people. Why would
i have a what you call it — a cult.
Gayle, I don't even really know
what a cult is. But I know I don't
have one."

I remember that night, at Afropunk , I
danced with my friends at the
blackest festival while listening to the
blackest music Out of the corner of
my eye,I could see him, a black man
waving his black power fist in the air.
We started dancing together (aye
aye) and I thought I was safe here,
thought I could trust a black man's
hands

Im Sorry that i am a jezebel
That i'm promiscuous and exotic
That i'm a fast girl,
Im sorry i was asking for it

black girl loses her body
black man scoops it up, gropes it,
bends it over
Black man does this while a crowd
watches

Gayle: R kelly have you broken any
laws when it comes to women?

I woke up lying in the grass. I realized
that it was not a dream. There was
someone on top of me, how could it be
him? him, everyone knew him. How
could a black man do this to me

Kelly: I make mistakes, but by no
means am I a monster." Everybody
says something bad about me.

I've done lots of things wrong when
it comes to women that I apologize.
But I apologize in those
relationships at the time I was in
the relationship, okay?

This stuff happened 20 years ago,
15 years ago.
Why now why would they come out
now?

R. Kelly, you need to understand that
when black women finally gather the
courage to come forward they're

called a traitor to the black struggle.
A national study found that
ninety-one percent of Black women
are sexually assaulted by Black men,
we are taught that it is our duty to
protect Black men at all costs, and
even if it violates our bodies. And
this, 'this is what keeps black
women's stories in the shadows

*I'm Sorry we hide our voices deep in
our throats
we remain in silence- too silent- too
afraid to speak up*

Mama said, use your words

I showed the doctor and the two
police officers the torn shirt that he'd
ripped off of me. the bruises on my
neck, hips and thighs. I willed myself
to give them his name his name, his
name but I couldn't. *I couldn't tell
them his name was --*

Gayle: Robert we have to have a
conversation. this has been such a
long-standing allegation against you,
starting back in the late 90s. Here we
are in 2019 and they're still talking
about you!

use your mouth

Maybe he didn't hear me say no
Maybe he didn't realize I was crying?
I've tried to convince myself that it
didn't really happen. I'm trying to tell
myself that he's still the good guy
everyone thinks he is but

Y' all quit playing! I didn't do this
stuff! This is not me! I'm fighting
for my freaking life! They're lying
on me!

Use your words, use your mouth

*For too long we have seen ourselves
as victims
For too long we have seen ourselves
as powerless
Our ancestors took lashes for saying
>And For too long have we remained
in silence*

*Momma said use your mouth, use
your words, tell the truth!*

The truth is im expected to stay
silent because my murderer shares
my skin color.

And i was molested by a black man
in front of a crowd of black people
who wouldn't even turn down the
music

The truth is I was still rooting for him

*Finally, I could hear my heart speak
as my mouth beat
And it reminded me that silence is
deadly that*

Justice is finally arriving as women
continue to speak out. This interview
with R Kelly is shining a light on a
national conversation about sexual
assault, about black women and
silence. And it is a conversation that
is long overdue

So speak your truth, your pain and
your resilience
so my sisters please

Speak up
Speak out
Speak now
Speak