

Kudos to the SINGLE PARENT



Bennie Nwokolo

Loveth is an established lawyer working for a prestigious firm in Lagos. She rides her own car and lives in a well furnished two bedroom apartment off Allen Avenue. The last in a family of five children, she grew up with the family dotting on her. She has everything she wants but presently at thirty-six love keeps eluding her. It is the one thing she is finding difficult to find. She has been accused of being soft, too trusting and accommodating, this observation by friends and family has left her often confused. She has been jilted once by a guy she dated for six years who ran off to America with her close friend. After that particular experience, she swore marriage was a no-go-area for her. Then she met Kelvin after three years. He seemed the perfect guy. Two years her senior, successful and unattached so he told her. A year into the affair she found out she was pregnant. To her shock and dismay Kelvin insisted on an abortion, claiming he was not ready for marriage at 38! For years Loveth dreamt of having a baby of her own, so she told him to go take a hike and decided to keep the pregnancy despite his opinion.

Today she has a beautiful angel, she considers the baby a gift and she has sworn Ayomide



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aning my joy has come) will never lack anything. She has joined the teeming trend of single parents. In the African culture it is still a little alien because it is believed that marriage should be the ultimate for an African woman. Being a single parent, having a child out of wedlock was considered loose. Such notion have begun to change with the way many of these single parents have conducted themselves in society, raised decent children and fulfilled their role as women who can handle jobs and do very well.

In my opinion, not many women are that lucky to meet Mr. right, some have never been lucky at love. Some have become old while waiting and age is slowly creeping in on them. Tell me do these group of women grow old slowly and become lonely old maids without the love, support and satisfaction of a child to at least comfort them in old age, simply because society sees it as morally wrong to have a child out side wedlock?

Ironically most of the children of these single parents often turn out better behaved than children who have both parents. The truth is that the single parent will work extra hard to make sure that her child is brought up in a morally upright way. Yes, research finding have shown that there is a higher tendency for a young girl from a single parent household to equally toe the line of her mother but this is often in most case a mistake by the girl and more common in lower income homes. There are so many women today, unmarried, who have passed child-bearing age who yearn to have a child of their own but lost the opportunity because they feared what the society will think of them, especially those who immerse themselves in church affairs.

Yes, you could say in a society like ours it takes guts, more like courage for a young woman who has faced so much disappointments in the hands of men to decide she wants to be a single parent. According to an Auntie, if you can't get a husband and age is telling on you, then have a child against the cold in old age. I tell you, a lot of women desire to do this but lack the courage. For these women, they think of what society, family and friends will

say. Does it mean they have lost faith in God? After the child will there still be hope for them in getting a partner? Sometimes we give up on ourselves but God in most cases hasn't given up on us. Depending on the age of the woman, there have been women who after having children, God still blessed them with a partner. The story of sister Docas is a perfect example, for years she kept having heart breaks in the hands of men until she met Kayode who promised her undying love. He wanted to marry her if only she would agree. He was also based in America. Sister Docas being a strong church member felt they should wait until after marriage before consummating their relationship. At first Kayode who also professed to being a Christian agreed. Then one faithful day he came visiting and just as he was about to leave, it began to rain, for hours the rain refused to stop. They tried to keep themselves occupied by discussing but one thing led to another and before they knew it, they were in each others arms. Just once was enough to get Docas pregnant. At first Kayode asked her to remove it but she refused claiming it was a sin. Angrily he called off the wedding and went back to the States. Despite ridicule and heavy chastisement by the church Docas was bent on keeping the pregnancy. She moved away and began attending another church. She later had the baby, it was a girl. When Kayode heard, he returned back, asking for forgiveness. He then told her that he was married already in the States but the white lady couldn't have children. Angered Docas walked him out of her home. After all being a bank manager in a big bank she knew she would be able to care for her baby with the help of her mother who was over joyed at the birth of the baby.

Well to add icing to the cake, three years later at the age of 43 God brought a 47 years old man, a widower, whose wife had been unable to conceive into her life. He was an architect who had spent all his life abroad but had come home searching for a matured woman. He didn't waste time in making his intentions known and today Docas and her baby have relocated to America and God has since blessed her once more with twin boys for her present husband.

In my opinion a woman who is matured and is on the verge of becoming an old maid should sit down and decide, take a look at the future and see if she likes the picture she sees. Secondly, society should give kudos to those who have decided to be courageous enough to become single parents because it takes a lot of guts. They need love and understanding not criticism or condemnation.