



A Black Women Struggle with her husband & His Family

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Backstory

My mother always lived with my Grandmother. She was an innocent lady, that's until the man that is now my father met her. My Grandmother warned him if he had no intention of bettering her life, don't even bother. He promised he would've treated her with the utmost respect. Getting into a relationship with my father came with obstacles. For instance, he had a son already. The mother of that child constantly verbally attacked my mother. Through all of this, she still stayed.

The Beginning

After the Process of getting us to America, constant arguing started happening. My mom couldn't work yet, so she would ask My father for money to buy things needed for us. Instead of giving the money, he would always go with my mother, so she doesn't "steal his hard-earned money."



The disrespect

When it came to my mother, my dad's side of the family had no respect for her whatsoever. Especially my stepbrother. He threatened to spit on her, call cps on her kids, and call her by her name. Experiencing these events, I always asked myself why my mother stayed in this toxic environment. Women constantly let men treat them like garbage; most women fail to see their worth.

Stood Her Ground

Since my mother started working, money has been stolen from her account by my stepbrother, \$7,000. He went as far as using my mother's social security to create a credit card without her knowledge, which she found out about four years later. This whole situation ruined her credit score. This was when my mother lost it and declared my stepbrother had moved out of the house. She told my father, "it either I go or he goes" of course, my father couldn't afford to lose A Black woman that cooked, cleaned, wash his clothes, so surprisingly he acted and sent my stepbrother packing.


Are the Results any better?

After what you could say was "the problem" had left, you would think things would be a little better, but that was not the case. The arguing continued. I could tell my mother was unhappy, but I was a "child," and I needed to stay in a "child's place." My father and I started distancing. The relationship we had before these things happened was not the same anymore.



Physical Violence

During the Quarantine, things got worse mainly because we were all in the house all the time. Worse to the point where he put his hands on my mother. I also got involved. I punched him because he was not backing off. My mom forced me to apologize to him, and I was confused because I helped this man from almost destroying your face, and you want me to apologize? I was shocked because he had never put his hands on my mother. It was always verbal abuse, not physical. I thought that would've been where my mother left, but she still stayed. That's when I told myself never to indulge in their business because they would still be together no matter what.



Infidelity

While my mother was pregnant, my father went to Haiti & ended up cheating with the mother of my uncle's children. This event was found out later after he got into a car accident. she found this out while just having a baby one month ago and breastfeeding. All that stress and shock could have sent her into a state of depression or worse. But no, she stood strong no matter what the issue was. With all these chaotic things happening, my mother is still married to him, and we live together, but she keeps her distance from him in the house, and so do i. She always tells me she is waiting until my younger siblings turn 18 to divorce him entirely but to be honest, I don't think that is going to happen.



Relevance

Now the relevance of this story is to bring into light the struggles black women face and their reactions to them. How much did my mother need to take to say that was the final straw? She is strong because many women's reactions would have been emotional. Maybe she was. She just was good at hiding it. I think Haitian culture is a big reason why she did not react. In most Haitian households, it is like you are married forever once you are married. Men tend to cheat and treat women however they please without consequences. Women tend not to have a voice or say so in the household. Men tend to want to provide, but they are unwilling to give women the necessary resources. From my experience, once the woman starts working, the man leaves it to the woman to do everything without contribution. Looking back at the "AFRICAN MATRILINEAL AND PATRILINEAL FAMILIES" discussion, I wrote that "women are always under the control of their husbands or male relatives" I feel like my story correlates to this idea and the different aspects it brings. This could also return to the conversation about the "MYTH OF BLACK WOMEN - perspectives and perceptions." My mother could've chosen to be angry and fit this persona, but throughout everything, she maintained calm and collected.

References

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