



“From Africa to the Atlantic World: My Black Woman Story!”
My Grand Mother Renee

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My black women story!

My black women story was based on my wonderful grandmother, Renee. She's one of the most strongest black women and an inspiring role model to me. My grandmother was always a helpful hand in the neighborhood and always enforced me to work hard for what i believed in.



My grandmothers origin!

My grandmother was born and raised in one of the toughest neighborhoods in jamaica queens ny. Renee was in charged of 12 sibilings at the age of 14 due to having an alcoholic mother and an absent father. She was basically forced to become a mother at a young age.

Obstacles

During her sophomore year of highschool, my grandmother fell in love with her highschool sweetheart and became a teen mom. She wasn't able to finish school due to her being rejected and overwhelmed from being pregnant. My grandfather helped supported her and her siblings in a tiny 2 bedroom apartment. Renee was forced to stay home and put her dreams on hold to become an “housewife”. She also faced sexism and discrimination as well.

Connection to “stereotypes of the black women.”

This connects to the stereotype of a black woman's role in a household. Men think that a woman's real purpose was to be a nurturing hand and to reproduce. “Though Black women enjoyed few of the dubious benefits of the ideology of womanhood, it is sometimes assumed that the typical female slave was a houseservant—either a cook, maid, or mammy for the children in the “big house.” Uncle Tom and Sambo have always found faithful companions in Aunt Jemima and the Black Mammy—stereotypes which presume to capture the essence of the Black woman’s role during slavery.” From *Women, Race, & Class* Angela Y. Davis This shows how women roles were automatically chosen to be a servant for the house while men was only in charged of the financial security. In the *Power and Womanhood in Africa* text, “But in spite of the activities, roles, responsibilities and positions women held in traditional Africa, the man in pre-colonial Africa was still the head of the family as well as leader of the society; society was purely patriarchal in nature. The man still played the controlling agent in the family; women played supporting roles to the men, and the roles of women were complimentary to men. This also explains how a woman's role wasn't that important and was looked as “the bare minimum”.

Dealing with sexualizing and ties to research.

My grandmother was also shamed seen as promiscuous due her being a teen mom. Usually when you see a women at young age with a bunch of kids, you will automatically assume that she's "fast" or "grown". In her case, it was ironic because she was forced to put on her "big girl pants" in order to support her family and herself. This also connects to slavery time. During the jim crow era, black women was seen as more mature and hypersexualized and called jezebels. According to the ferris edu article, "Jezebel" share the reputation of being sexually seductive, and both are antithetical to the desexualized Mammy caricature; nevertheless, it is a mistake to assume that only, or even mainly, fair-complexioned black women were sexually objectified by the larger American society. From the early 1630s to the present, black American women of all shades have been portrayed as hypersexual "bad-black-girls. (to be continued)



Sexualization of black women

According to the blackburn.org center “The minimal amounts of clothing worn by Africans (appropriate in a hot climate), the fact that some tribes practiced polygamy, and the seemingly suggestive tribal dances led these Europeans to believe that Africans were sexually lewd. [William Smith](#) wrote that African women were “hot constitution’d Ladies” who “are continually contriving stratagems how to gain a lover.” The initial stereotype of Black women as sexually promiscuous arose from these writings. Later, these notions (among others) were used to [justify](#) enslaving Africans.

During the era slavery in the United States, the idea that Black women had insatiable appetites for sex was used to justify the rape of enslaved women by their owners. For owners, this practice had the added effect of producing additional enslaved people. Under the laws of the time, any child born to an enslaved person would also be enslaved.” This shows how men viewed black women as promiscuous due to how they would celebrate their culture. This led to a lot of sexual trauma within the black community.

Feminism!

This also ties back to the women in pre-colonial period, women back then held important roles in their village before the europeans arrived. The europeans thought the women was too powerful and decided to strip them of their power similar how stereotypes deferred my grandmother from her success. Which is why feminism is very important because men put women in this box and make us believe that we arent capable of doing other things. Many men was against feminism because they felt as it targeted their masculinity.



conclusion..

In my opinion, my grandmother was an example of a strong black woman. She still kept her head up and got through her problems despite the cards she was dealt. Black Womanhood has evolved a lot because women have a lot of resources and have equal rights as men . Women was always brushed off and forced to be a "lap dog'' for the europeans.they had no say in anything which is what lead them to protesting and boycotting for their rights which lead to feminism .especially with the role that women have played in the growth and in the continuity of the family is that women is believed to be the housewife and take care of household duties while the men works to provide for the family when in reality, women can do the same thing as a man and be independent by themselves.

Sources

BlackBurn.org

<https://www.blackburncenter.org/post/2019/02/20/the-historical-roots-of-the-sexualization-of-black-women-and-girls>

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<https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/jimcrow/jezebel/index.htm>

Women, Race, & Class Angela Y. Davis

Power and Womanhood in Africa