

JUDY ACHERO
AUTHOR OF WARRIOR WOMAN

*Why
Am I
Still
Single?*

#thewaitisover

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JUDY ACHERO

DREAMS UNPACKED
blueprint
PUBLISHERS



Why I Am Still Single?
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CONTENTS

DEDICATION	VII
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	VIII
INTRODUCTION: IS CELIBACY THE WILL OF GOD?	X
GENERATIONAL FAMILY PATTERN	15
UNRESOLVED PAST ISSUES	24
YOU ARE ALREADY “MARRIED”	33
YOU WERE A VICTIM OF REJECTION	42
YOU GET EASILY BORED	50
SELF SABOTAGE	56
WHO SHOULD YOU MARRY	66
CONCLUSION: THE DEVIL HATES MARRIAGE	79

DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to every single man or woman who aspires marriage, you shall not miss your mate.

May this book prepare you for marriage and break every single thing standing in the way of finding your suitable spouse. #thewaitisover

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I want to extend a special thank you to my husband, for allowing me to pursue my purpose and cheering me on in every assignment I step into.

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To my spiritual parents, Bishop Allan and Rev. Kathy Kiuna. Thank you for modeling God to me and shifting my mind to believe in marriage. Your marriage is a voice of hope to many and attestation that marriage still works. Mum you prophesied I'll author many books, this book and many to come are a fulfillment of that prophecy.

Thank you to my Jubilee Christian church family, serving you is my delight, thank you for loving me and embracing my ministry. To my children Gift and Ben Jr your love for me is the fuel behind most of what I do.

To God be all the glory for everything you have enabled me to do.
In you I live ,move and have my being.

INTRODUCTION:

IS CELIBACY THE WILL OF GOD?

Singlehood or marriage is a choice which should entirely be upon an individual. Unfortunately society has elevated marriage as the most important thing, without which life is incomplete. Only God makes us complete and nothing including marriage should be desired more than God.

Jesus being deity (100% Man), chose a life of Celibacy and so was Apostle Paul the man who balanced our theology by writing half of the new testament. These were two very successful men in their careers proving to us that you can remain single, be complete, fulfilled and productive in life.

Singlehood is a choice and should not be treated as a disease for which marriage is a cure. We must resist the indication that Singlehood is second best. It is a gift from God, just as marriage is a gift from God. The Apostle Paul tells us “Sometimes I wish everyone were single like me—a simpler life in many ways! But celibacy is not for everyone any more than marriage is. God gives the gift of the single life to some, the gift of the married life to others” (1 Corinthians 7:7 MSG). Therefore both Singlehood and marriage are equal in the sense that they are both a gift from God.

Verse 8 advises the unmarried and widows to consider remaining single. However he also tells them that the choice of whether to get married is up to them. **The Bible therefore leaves the choice to be married or not entirely upon an individual.**

When the disciples asked Jesus if it was better not to marry, this is what He said, not all men can accept this statement, but only those to whom [the capacity to receive] it has been given. For there are eunuchs who have been born that way from their mother's womb [making them incapable of consummating a marriage]; and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men [for royal service]; and there are eunuchs who have made themselves so for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept this, let him accept it. Matthew 19:11-12 AMP

A eunuch is someone who is not involved in sexual activity which is only permitted in marriage. So Jesus acknowledges that there are those who will remain as eunuchs thus unmarried. Therefore not every Christian is obligated to be married. **He also says that to remain unmarried requires you to have capacity for it, meaning it requires a measure of grace.**

CHOOSE CELIBACY FOR THE RIGHT REASONS

Jesus affirms that eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs did so “for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.” This means that the desire

to stay single is driven by the desire to serve the kingdom, unburdened by the responsibilities of being a wife and or mother.

Growing up as a young lady, I had no desire of getting married because there was no role model to emulate. So the view of marriage in my head was corrupted .There was nothing desirable about marriage. It was not until I met my pastors who are my spiritual parents Bishop Allan and Kathy Kiuna, that I saw another version of marriage. They were a happy, loving and fun to be with couple that modeled to me that marriage can be good a thing. Here after, I desired marriage.

If you are like me and had decided to be single because what you have seen of marriage is nothing to desire, you may need to change the models that have affected your view of marriage and identify those that hinge on inspiration

Perhaps celibacy is not your true desire but you are only opting for it because you do not seem to meet a suitable spouse, or have been moving from one relationship to another. Let this book point out any issues that are standing in the way of your finding the right person with whom you can live with happily ever after.

Whether you are single after the death of your spouse, single after a divorce or never been married before this book will guide you to making the decision to remain single or embrace the beauty of marriage.

MARRIAGE IS A GOOD CHOICE

Marriage is a choice. It should be embraced as a good choice because it is the desire of God. The first miracle Jesus did in Cana of Galilee proves to us that Jesus endorsed marriage. Besides, the first thing God gave a woman immediately after creating her in Genesis was a husband.

Genesis 2:22 “And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.” This scripture shows that God is the one who decreed that man’s solitude is not good. God did not just say it is not good for Adam to be alone but also made provision for him by creating and bringing a woman to him. He therefore took the role of being the first Father to give away a bride. This is what we now refer to as the first marriage that God himself joined.

It is notable that God took the initiative to provide Adam with a wife and also to create Eve with a complete husband already in waiting. **This means that finding a spouse should not be a struggle.** However even though it is the desire of God for marriage to happen, a lot of people who desire marriage have been hindered from it.

In life there will be things that will happen that are completely out of our control but sometimes our relationship status can be within our control. Meaning that some of the reasons for not being married are things we are responsible for as discussed in this book. Nonetheless, other reasons are beyond our control but there is a solution for each.

As you read through the different reasons addressed in this book, you will need to look within yourself and identify which areas of concern mirror your own situation. This should prompt the desire to confront the identified issue(s). Let this book be a wakeup call to begin to point into any issues in your control or out of your control that are standing in the way of an authentic marriage. Deal with it accordingly and watch how the long wait for marriage will be over.

GENERATIONAL FAMILY PATTERN

A beautiful lady in her late thirties walked into my office for counseling. I have known her for many years. She is a kind, warm hearted lady with a good career. With tears in her eyes, she looked at me and asked “Why am I still single?” She disclosed to me that she had been praying and trusting God for a husband for many years, done everything she knew to do but is still single. I sat back looked at her and I realized I did not have an answer for her.

That question troubled my spirit because I could see the pain in her eyes. She had desired to be married, done all she knew to do but she was still single. For days my heart was overburdened. Suddenly, it dawned on me that she is not the only person asking this question but there are many men and women who have done everything they knew to do but are still single.

From the moment she left my office I began to seek the Lord for answers to her question. I began researching, looking at different

circumstances, studying the lives of many single people who are looking for answers because I felt I owed this lady an answer one day.

The first thing I discovered is that it is not the will of God for one to remain single unless it is one's choice. When God created man He looked at him and boldly declared, "It is not good for man to be alone." For everything God created, He said it was good. The only thing He said was not good was Adam's solitary state. God created human beings with the inherent need for companionship. We are creatures of love. This then communicates to us that the desire of God is not for man to be alone but to have a companion.

Likewise, I came across a scripture in Isaiah 34:16 which declares that none shall miss their mate. By revelation we understand that according to the plan of God, nobody should miss their mate. The Bible declares that by the witness of two or three, a matter shall be established. From these two scriptures, it is clear that the issue at hand is not a God problem. Neither is it His unwillingness to do it, because He has already expressed His desire in His word. Notwithstanding, this still does not answer our big question.

One year into my research I called the same lady to my office. This time round I had done some homework and I was ready to take her through a journey into her roots, her family and personal reflection so that we could together try and resolve her dilemma.

I began to ask her questions related to my findings. One of the

questions I asked her was about the history of marriage in her family. She began to explain that she was raised by a single mother. As she carried on she mentioned that she did not have a grandfather because her grandmother was not married. She further divulged that her two aunties are single mothers and one is divorced. At that particular point, I began to see where the problem was.

After narrating her dilemma, she sat back and said, “Oh my God nobody in my family gets married!” I looked at her and told her, there goes your answer. The delay in her marriage was because the devil was trying to use what he used against her grandmother and her own mother to hinder her from marriage. There was an evil family pattern passed through generations that hindered the women in that family from getting married. It moved from her grandmother to her mother and then to her. Thus, she was unconsciously manifesting it.

An evil generational pattern is a demonic force that manifests itself repeatedly in different families over generations. Thus, the devil will use what he used to fight your father to try and fight you. Therefore, you will find different evil patterns in different families. For example, there are families where there are delayed marriages among either the men or women, or when they marry, their marriages never work. Other families struggle with certain diseases like high blood pressure or diabetes, poverty, premature death at certain age, first born or last born falling into a similar problem among other patterns.

WHAT YOU DO NOT KNOW CAN DESTROY YOU

The Bible declares in the book of Hosea 4:6 that God's people perish because of lack of knowledge. **In other words, what you do not know could be the reason why you are still single.** Therefore, it is time to begin to open your eyes and get to know what it is that you do not know that could be militating against your marital destiny. **What you do not know has the power to destroy you.** If the delay in your marital destiny is family patterns that are evident, then it is time to take authority over that and break that pattern. You will be free to step into marriage and you will destroy the patterns so that your children do not have to experience the same challenge.

EXAMPLE OF EVIL FAMILY PATTERNS

Abraham, the man who is known as the father of faith had several evil patterns in his family beginning with him and boiling down to his son and grandson.

Barrenness in the family

Abraham's wife was barren and did not get a child until the age of 90 years but finally gave birth to a son named Isaac. Likewise, Isaac married a woman named Rebecca who was also barren but later she got two children one of them was Jacob. Similarly, Jacob's first wife Rebecca was barren but God later opened her womb. It is therefore

evident that there was an issue with barrenness and the women marrying into this family had to contend with it.

A spirit of deception

Abraham deceived Abimelech about his wife. Isaac his son also deceived Abimelech. Jacob deceived Isaac his father and got a birthright fraudulently, Laban the uncle of Jacob deceived him about his wife and defrauded his wages for 10 years.

The first borns were rejected

Abraham's first son Ishmael was rejected; Isaac's first-born son Esau was rejected; Jacob's first son Reuben was rejected. When Joseph brought his sons to Jacob, the later said the elder would serve the younger, so the first born was rejected.

Abraham was a man of so much faith that he is now referred to as the father of faith. He is the man upon whom God bestowed the blessing, what we call the blessing of Abraham. The patterns in his lineage were neither faith issues nor curses. As noted, he was a man of faith and a blessed man too. This therefore means that you can be a man or woman of faith and be so blessed but still contend with an evil family pattern.

HOW TO BREAK THE EVIL FAMILY PATTERN

Begin doing a detailed research on your roots and investigate the background of your family because the enemy will try to use the same thing he used against your family to torment you. Acknowledge if there is an evil family pattern that you need to confront.

Proverbs 9:10b says, “Through knowledge shall the just be delivered” Deliverance begins by acquiring accurate knowledge of what is standing on your way. Equipped with knowledge, you can pray guided prayers addressing specific situations hindering your marital destiny unlike just praying generally for a spouse.

There are people who were forced into satanic covenants without their knowledge. Some of these covenants were initiated when one was young and only later in life one begins to suffer the consequences of those covenants. It will take spiritual insight to dig deep and destroy those foundations. Consequently, you have to violently wage war and pray against known or unknown forces of darkness affecting your life or your marital destiny.

The Bible says Isaac inquired of the Lord on behalf of Rebecca and God blessed her with a child called Jacob. Similarly, Rachael hearkened unto the Lord and the Lord blessed her with a child. It took prayer to break this evil pattern in the family. Prayer is one major weapon for breaking evil family patterns. Therefore you have to engage seriously in prayer and fasting to break these patterns.

There is power in the blood of Jesus that will break every evil pattern. Remember, the moment you got born again, the blood of Jesus was infused into your system. Henceforth, you carry the blood of Jesus in your veins and so the blood of your lineage has no power over you. **This also means that whatever evil is in your lineage can only be broken by the power in the blood of Jesus.**

It is critical to note that when you set time to pray and fast to break these evil patterns, it will be important to take Holy Communion and declare whatever is in your bloodline has been nullified and replaced by the blood of Jesus.

The lady mentioned above engaged in prayer and God's word until she broke the evil pattern in her family. Six months after that she met a man in her church and later got married. To God be the Glory

It is important to note that life is spiritual and in order for you to overcome, you must be born again. This is a spiritual fight and not physical battle, so you need to invoke God to fight for you. The Bible in 2 Corinthians 5:17 AMPC says, "Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!" Confess this scripture repeatedly over your life. **Knowing this scripture does not help you if you do not apply it to your situation. Knowing that soap can make you clean does not make you clean.** It is until you take the soap and apply it on your body in a bath that you will get clean. So

take the word and apply it in your situation through prayer and fasting to break and put an end the evil patterns in your family for complete deliverance.

NEGATIVE WORDS SPOKEN

There are some people upon whom negative words were spoken over their lives by their fathers, mothers, teachers, or other figures of authority. For instance, perhaps your mother in anger told you that you will never get married and these words have had an impact in your life. The Bible says in Proverbs 18:21 that Life and death is in the power of your tongue. **Words carry power and these words could be standing in the way of your marriage.**

In Genesis 49 before Jacob died, he gathered all his sons to speak the last blessing of a father unto them. Unfortunately for Reuben his first born his father rejected him and spoke words against him.

Jacob said,

“Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, the beginning (the first fruit) of my manly strength and vigor; [your birthright gave you] the preeminence in dignity and the preeminence in power. But unstable and boiling over like water, you shall not excel and have the preeminence [of the firstborn], because you went to your father's bed; you defiled it—he went to my couch!”(Genesis 49:3-4 AMPC)

Later Moses realized that whenever they went for battle most of the men from the tribe of Reuben are the ones that were being killed.

Therefore before Moses died he stood as a higher spiritual authority and nullified the words Jacob spoke over Reuben declaring “Let Reuben live and not die and let not his men be few” (Deuteronomy 33:6)

The negative words Jacob spoke over his son Reuben had a negative bearing on Reuben and his men bringing death and defeat because there is power in words. If you are a victim of negative words spoken by your parents or your authority, it is important to ask your parents to reverse those words and speak a blessing. However if that is not possible you could go to your pastor, who is a higher authority and ask him to pray over you thereby reversing any negative words as Moses did over the tribe of Reuben.

" Nothing is impossible with our God. "

UNRESOLVED PAST ISSUES

What sits unresolved in our past affects our future.

Have you ever been in a hot shower and you noticed the steam from the hot shower has covered the bathroom mirror. Even after the shower is over, the steam is still on. If not wiped immediately the steam or water vapor cools down and it turns into liquid water. Unresolved issues in life are like the steam forming in the mirror; the mirror in this case being our heart. If not dealt with immediately, the issues solidify resulting to more complex issues. Mixed Cement is easily moved when wet but difficult when it solidifies as a concrete slab.

Did you know that most issues people are dealing with in relationships as adults, have their roots from past experiences? Some of it could be pain from past experiences or lack of love that left a void in one's life. This causes the victims to run from relationship to relationship looking for something to heal the pain deep inside or fill the void inside. Which is referred to as The law of replacement.

Majority of people who have had terrible experiences especially

with relationships in the past tend to build a wall, close off, and often times refuse to be vulnerable to love. Many end up turning off potential lifetime partners. Once you are hit by a buffalo, any black cow appears to be a potential threat.

If you have been hurt before, you tend to protect yourself from getting hurt again by creating a wall, or a shell all around you. That shell not only shuts any further pain but it also shuts potential love thereby pushing a potential future life partner away. I have heard people say, “she/he is nice but I don’t feel him/her.” However, it is difficult to feel somebody when you have created a shell around you so no feeling can penetrate through the wall.

Past issues can cause us to be undesirable. Have you ever liked someone from a distance then when you got closer to them you began to see and discover things in them you did not like and suddenly your perspective of them changes? That is what most unresolved issues do, when people get close; they are pushed away by what they see.

Each and every one of us has had bad experiences in the past and failure to deal with those issues, will leave you at the risk of hurting others or pushing them away unconsciously. For instance, if Jane hurt you, it is Jane who hurt you and so let go of Jane. In the future if Penny comes into your life, give Penny a chance without looking at her based on your experience with Jane. Do not make Penny pay for Jane’s mistakes. Do not make your potential spouse pay for the mistakes of your ex.

Unresolved Past issues can therefore destroy our hope and expectations for the future, causing us to be undesirable, emotionally unavailable or difficult to love. Therefore keeping us single or going round the circles of relationship with no hope of marriage.

DO NOT PUT A BANDAGE ON A BROKEN ARM

Most people are broken inside from issues and relationship from the past. Instead of allowing healing to take place, most of them have instead put a bandage on a broken arm. On the inside, the bone is broken and leaking causing more issues, yet on the outside it might actually look okay. **If you never allow yourself to heal completely, you may end up disfigured.**

When you put a bandage on a broken arm, it's like trying to treat the symptoms arising from this injury without addressing the root cause of the issues. Similarly, unresolved issues from the past are hard to hide because often they show up in other places unannounced. **They often manifest in form of anger, inability to trust, jealousy, being judgmental, being suspicious, insecurities etc.**

It is important at this point to begin to do self-introspection and see if there is anything that sits unresolved in the past that instead of allowing actual healing to take place, you have only bandaged it.

In this chapter I will Highlight some of the unresolved issues most people face. It is important to read carefully and check if any of this could be explaining your situation and therefore begin to address them.

CHILDHOOD TRAUMAS

A lot of what went on in our childhood influenced how we turned out as adults because adulthood is an extension of your experiences as a child. This means that a lot of what goes on in childhood influences how we turn out as adults.

The blueprint of how the world is , was created in us while we were children by the events we witnessed and things that happened to us as children. If that blueprint was negative ,it can affect our ability to function effectively as adults. Therefore we need to renew our mind thus create a new blueprint as adults. It's important to ask yourself how love was interpreted to you as a child because it will affect your view of love as an adult.

Trauma generates emotions, if we do not process these emotions at the time the trauma occurs and allow healing, they get imprinted in our subconscious mind. For instance, if you were raped at an early age and you never dealt with the situation and healed from it, as an adult, a man will show interest and you quickly think he is after your body. If he hugs you in a bit more intense way, immediately, that triggers the emotions from the rape experience causing you to overreact and

become judgmental. The problem was not the hug but it is what sits unresolved that controls how you reacted to it.

WAYS AN ADULT CAN HEAL CHILDHOOD TRAUMAS

There comes a time when the future is more important than the past and so you have got to do everything it takes to break the shell, bring down the wall, remove the bandage and allow the broken arm to be aligned and properly heal.

Healing begins by completing the process that you should have undergone long ago when the negative incident took place. You have to allow yourself to go back to a situation that hurt you as a child. Unpack that issue and allow your mind to feel how it felt when that situation happened. This might cause sadness and other emotions that might make you cry. Nonetheless, it is ok to cry. We process our emotions by expressing them and allowing ourselves to feel them to the core and letting them out thereby bringing healing.

Think of a situation that you have been upset about as a child. Replay what happened in your mind with all the details involved. Imagine yourself back in that time and place. Experience it all again with your senses and let your emotions begin to rise. This will help bring the pain suppressed inside all out and allow you to process it like you should have done when it happened.

If possible share the story with somebody else ,or go before God in prayer and explain the story to Him as if you are telling a friend. You could also write it down, describing the details of what happened and how you felt then. Writing helps you move the emotion from your subconscious mind releasing it out.

It's important to understand that there is no healing outside of God. You will need to bring your pain before God through prayer and allow Him to heal you. After you are done writing it ,then go before God with that paper and ask Him to heal you and surrender that situation to Him.Psalms 147:3 He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

BAD BREAK UPS

Do you stop eating food because you had food poisoning? Likewise you cannot stop the possibility of loving again because of a bad break-up. Some people have been hurt so harshly in the past that it spills over into their current relationship .They are afraid to get close to another person and embrace a new relationship. If you were choked by a fishbone, look for fish fillet, but don't give up on fish.

A broken engagement, a break up from a promising relationship or divorce carry a great share of pain and can affect the victims view of relationships. Trust issues, fear of commitment, esteem issues, rejection, anger and much more insecurity arise from this. It is therefore

important to ask yourself, ‘How do I navigate through life after a break up and embrace the possibility of finding love again?’

The first step will be to take a step back and stay single for a while. A lot of people tend to get into another relationship almost immediately in order to fill the void inside which should not be the case. Consequently, this gives rise to a rebound. A rebound is simply building a new relationship upon a foundation of emotional baggage.

A rebound mostly happens with the person who is a friend and they are the one’s helping you through in this season of breakup. This is the person you get to talk to when you are hurting, they feel sorry for you and tend to embrace you; filling up the void and comforting you in time of grief. This forms a certain unreal bond that many misinterpret as love. However, it is advisable to get a person of the same sex to walk with you during this season to avoid any chance of a rebound. Accountability helps during a season of crisis.

Taking a step back allows you time to heal because someone left you broken and you need to mend yourself and find balance again. You will need to take time to rediscover yourself.

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE PAIN OF A BAD BREAK UP

Be fully aware that there will be moments of grief and loneliness. Thus, embrace these feelings and do not minimize them or try to run

away from them. These feelings are real and you need to go through with them because this is the process of healing. Do not try to numb or suppress the pain instead, face it and come to terms with the loss and allow yourself to feel it to the bottom.

Take time to reflect on the relationship, what went wrong and which part you played in the break up. Ask yourself hard questions concerning the just broken relationship. It would be important to write down some of the things you discovered that caused the break up from your side and your partner's side. Things you overlooked and things you said or should not have said. Ask yourself what hurt you most in that break up? Is it the fact that your partner cheated? Is it the fact that you invested your time and money in that relationship and it did not work? Be intentional and write down what exactly hurt you most in that relationship. This is what confronting your pain is and it is a major part of healing. After you have thought through and processed everything, deconstruct that relationship in your head to make sure you never have to revisit the thoughts again.

The first step to healing is admitting that you are actually sick and you need help. The Bible gives us an interesting story of a woman at the well in John 4. This woman had moved from one relationship to another. She was married four times and at the time of her encounter with Jesus, she was in a relationship with another man. This is an indication that there was something she was looking for which she thought she would get from the next man.

This situation left her wounded and vulnerable but she had an encounter with Jesus that changed her life. At the well, Jesus began by addressing her issues and she quickly admitted she had no husband and that she had been married four times. Her healing began when she was able to admit that there was a situation to address.

There is no healing outside of Jesus and you will need to go to God and acknowledge you have some painful issues from the past that you need Him to heal, touch you and make you whole. Surrender yourself to Him and allow Him to heal you and make you whole.

When you deal with the unresolved issues from the past, you are now free to find love, be in a healthy relationship, sustain it up to marriage and live happily after. I challenge you, do not let your past determine your future but instead, deal with it and live life totally unhindered by the past.

YOU ARE ALREADY “MARRIED”

Am a tea lover and so milk is in high demand in my house. The reason why I do not own a cow is because I can access milk at any time. Since I have milk and more milk whenever I need it, then I do not see the need to commit to buying cows. This is the reason why some men specifically are not committing to marriage: from an ever present girlfriend, they can get almost everything that a wife should provide. Marriage therefore ceases to be a priority for a man well provided for by a present girlfriend.

A lot of ladies in relationships are delaying themselves from marriage because they have availed themselves as wives before they actually become wives. You could be dating this man now for some years and you have given him everything he needs in a wife that he does not need to commit himself to you officially in marriage. You cook for him, wash his cloths, and then you have sex with him at will. He has everything he needs in a wife and therefore does not see any reason for him to formalize a relationship into a marriage. Unknowingly, you have signed up to be his girlfriend for many years.

It is very unfortunate therefore that most couples do not move past dating for many years because there is no urgency for marriage since they live like they are already married.

SOUL TIES

I Corinthians 6:16 NKJV “Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “Shall become one flesh.”

Anytime you have sex with somebody, you become joined or knit together to that person, you become one and that is a soul tie. Sex was meant for married people but unfortunately while sexual intercourse happens outside of marriage it forms ungodly soul ties. It ties two people together in a spiritual realm.

There are people who while dating made commitments through phrases such as “I will love you forever” or “I could never love another person, you are my soul mate.” Words carry power and can play a role in forming a soul tie. Furthermore, soul-ties can also be formed through rape, molestation or incest which happened without your consent.

Most people who have soul ties will feel dominated, controlled, or frustrated by memories of a previous relationships. They left the relationship years back but they cannot seem to forget the person.

Rather, they keep thinking about past relationships because they are tied to that person.

Soul ties make people stay in abusive relationships and no matter how bad they are treated or even battered they cannot leave. Even if they leave, there seems to be something magnetic that keeps drawing that person back to the abusive partner.

Anytime you have sex with somebody, your body, soul and mind are involved. Your body and your soul are connected to the person with whom you are having sex. You become one just like God declares in His word that two shall become one. In the realm of the spirit you are joined to another person therefore this hinders you from getting married because you are already joined to somebody else.

SPIRITUAL HUSBAND / WIFE

This is one area that a lot of people shy away from or ignore but yet there are some people highly affected by this. Some people do not believe in it but unfortunately, it is a reality. I have dealt with several people who dream about having sex in the night. This is a sign of a spiritual husband /wife.

This is one of the reasons many young women/ men are unmarried: they are already married to spiritual husbands/ wives. A spiritual husband/wife is a spouse that marries you in the spirit. So spiritually

speaking, you are tied together just like you are married. While in the physical you say you are single, in the realm of the spirit you are married and this demonic spirit fights anyone trying to marry you. It fights to keep you married to it alone and therefore hinders you from actual marriage.

How to break soul ties and spiritual husband /wife

To break soul ties, you need to begin with repenting of the sin of fornication. If you were raped or molested, it is important to forgive your offenders. On the same note, you might consider getting rid of gifts given by the person you had ungodly soul ties with especially gifts like rings. You need to also renounce words that could have played a role in formation of soul ties.

It is important to take drastic measures, for instance you can cut all communication. Therefore, you purpose neither to call the person nor answer their phone calls. It will also do you good not to hang out in places where you know they will be; not to be alone with them and not to email them.

If you are not born again you need to receive Jesus in your heart and acknowledge him as your Lord and Saviour. With deliberate intent, pronounce from now on your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Secondly you need to renounce the soul tie verbally in Jesus name and use the authority of Jesus to pray breaking every soul tie and mentioning by name whoever you have a soul tie with. Prayer is a

force against the powers of darkness. It would be advisable to have your pastor pray over you against this.

Jeremiah 23:29 “Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?” Hammer your situation with the word of God. His word is the most powerful, burning, consuming, and sharpest sword you would ever need to cut off any demonic activity in your life. Declare that God has rolled away the reproach of a spiritual husband/wife and a soul tie over your life Joshua 5:9 “This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you.” Declare that you are joined to the lord and not to any other spirit. 1 Corinthians 6: 17 “But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.” Declare that you are far from oppression and at night you shall sleep with no fear of spiritual husband /wife Isaiah 54:14 “...thou shall be far from oppression: for thou shall not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee”.

THE DANGERS OF SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE

Sex before marriage comes with a share of its own dangers. When you meet somebody you want to know them, know their character and their values .This should help you make a decision whether this is the person you want to spend the rest of your life with. The moment you bring in sex it affects your ability to make sound and informed decisions. Sex blinds you, that you lose the ability to truly

know the other person's true character. It stops you from building the relationship.

When you have sex with somebody before marriage, it robs you of the capacity to make sound judgment. Sex clouds your judgement. It's of paramount importance to allow yourself to be emotionally connected to a person before you are physically connected.

Sex glues people together, it creates an unbreakable bond. There is a hormone produced while you have sex called oxytocin that bonds people together. It is the same chemical released while you are breastfeeding a child and it creates a bond between a child and the mother.

When you have sex before marriage you bond with somebody who you have not taken time to know if they are good for you. You end up marrying them thinking you are in love just to realize later you are not compatible, and their character is not what you want but you were blinded by sex.

The best gift you can give to your partner is to demonstrate to them that you have self-control. This speaks volumes even into the future because there will be times in marriage when for various reasons, it may be impossible to have sex. In such a case there will be no insecurities because your partner already proved to you while dating that they have self-control.

Sex before marriage breaks the foundation of trust. If you stayed pure and refused the temptation of sex while courting, there will always be something that records on her/his mind that you are a principled person. Therefore your husband /wife will trust that in the face of temptation, you will not succumb to the urge of sexual play. So if you go on a business trip she/he will never doubt you because it is engraved in his/her spirit that you are a man/woman of integrity. This is going to help your marriage a big deal.

It is important to set your relationship on a Godly foundation and Godly principles. Allow the word of God to be the final authority in your relationship. Show that man /woman that you live by the word of God and even in marriage you will govern your marriage on the same principles. If you have sex with him/her while dating, you would have shown him /her that Godly principles do not matter to you. In the same light, when you get married and you try to tell him /her that you have to live by Godly principles and that neither of you can have an affair in the marriage, he/she will have a hard time to believe you because you already showed him that Godly principles do not matter.

To abstain from sex before marriage especially while dating, you must be intentional and agree on ground rules. Sit down together and engage in a sober talk about sex and agree on boundaries. Do not leave it open because temptations will come. Similarly, try as much as possible to avoid temptation zones. You cannot be in his house just the two of you alone and expect nothing to happen. Before you realize, one thing will lead to the other.

Sex before marriage has become almost acceptable among single people in this age and time. Nevertheless, Gods standards have never changed. God ordained sex exclusively for only married people and no matter how we look at it, sex before marriage is wrong and it is sin. Understand your body is the temple of the living God and so choose to honor God with your body.

UNDERSTANDING THE DANGERS OF PORNOGRAPHY

If you are dating somebody who is watching pornography, do not rush into marrying him/her until they get delivered from it. It is critical to note that pornography is breaking marriages. It is a fantasy that corrupts the view of sex in marriage. Once you enter into marriage with a partner who is addicted to watching pornography that marriage is deceased from the onset.

According to research, porn increases marital infidelity by 300%. This means that you are getting into marriage with already a very high risk of infidelity and high risk of divorce. Moreover, porn kills intimacy and turns sex into masturbation where it becomes self-serving. Furthermore, it makes you ignore your spouse and makes sex all about the body and not intimacy. It makes the other person become a sex object.

In chapter 9 of my book Warrior Woman “I have explained in detail how you can break from porn addiction. If you or your partner is

JUDY ACHERO

struggling with porn get hold of my book and let it help you be free from porn.

YOU WERE A VICTIM OF REJECTION

It is apparent that people who are victims of rejection struggle with relationships in different ways. If not dealt with, this could cause them to stay single longer than expected until they intentionally decide to get to the root of the issue and confront it.

People who were rejected find themselves unable to maintain healthy relationships, causing them to jump from one relationship to another. They hold back connecting with others because they are afraid of being rejected making them emotionally unavailable.

Rejection causes the victim to believe they are not worthy of love or they do not measure up thus pushing away potential partners. They tend to avoid relationships altogether to protect themselves from further rejection thus causing them to be single for a long time.

They are needy and will require constant approval which becomes a weight to the other person they are in a relationship with. This can lead to a break up leaving one heartbroken and eventually single

again. They get easily offended, any small mistake from their partner is handled with such intensity and if this carries on, it leads to a break up.

Moreover, people who have been rejected and have not dealt with it, are hard to correct because if corrected they translate that as rejection. This makes it difficult for the other partner to live with them thus rendering the relationship dysfunctional. Rejection therefore is one of the main reasons people move from one relationship to another given that there are unresolved issues that will keep pushing love away.

People with rejection syndrome are very manipulative, proud and arrogant. They often hide behind pride and arrogance. Subsequently, this will drive away anyone who is in a relationship with such a person.

Most people with rejection issues end up in unhealthy relationships that do not last because they tend to be a people pleaser, doing things to make the other person notice them in a positive way. They live with the fear of their partner breaking up with them because they perceive of themselves as unworthy of the partner's love. This perception of unworthiness pushes them to the giving side because they feel that is the only way they can sustain a relationship and keep their partner from leaving.

Falling in love brings vulnerability. People who have been rejected therefore will prefer to hold back. They fear subjecting themselves to the vulnerability which arises out of love, because they fear it could

end in rejection. Relationships are a risk in nature but if handled God's way, it becomes easier to navigate through it.

WERE YOU REJECTED BY A LOVER?

If you were rejected by a lover it does not mean you were rejected because you were not good enough for them. Rather, it could be that the two of you were not compatible, yet you could be perfect for someone else. In fact, most rejections in relationships are just because you are not a perfect fit, there is no chemistry or it is just incompatible lifestyles.

Just because a few people do not like banana does not mean that a banana is not a good fruit. The truth is that there are actually many people who love banana. Similarly, just because some people failed to see your true value does not mean that you have no value.

Rejection often communicates certain wrong messages that cause you to have misleading perceptions of yourself as either unimportant or worthless in your own sight and that of others.

Most rejections from relationships tend to make people try to change who they are as they attempt to fit into the expectations of those they are trying to please. Nevertheless, as much as you strive to be better, you must also strive to be you. Do not change who you are just to try and be better for somebody else. Just the way you are, there is

someone ordained by God for you who will do anything to just marry you, or spend time with you. Every reject is someone else's fantasy.

Perhaps you were dropped or rejected by someone but it was not because he/she did not love you. The person who dropped you might have loved you but they did not have the capacity required to make you their lifetime mate. The issue therefore was not with you but with the other person who did not have the capacity to handle you. You therefore must task yourself to let them go so that you create room for somebody else that has what it takes and carries the capacity to love you authentically.

Your values do not decrease based upon someone's inability to see your worth. Do not let rejection cripple you because sometimes when somebody rejects you, they could be acting on their own fear or insecurities. There is an old saying that "what is meant for you will not pass you by". If a door doesn't open then maybe it was not your door.

HOW DO YOU OVERCOME REJECTION?

The first thing rejection destroys is your self-worth so you will need to work on building your self-esteem by focusing on your strengths and avoiding self-criticism at all costs. You must endeavor to silence the inner voice that tells you that you are not good enough or that you are incapable of love. Begin to define yourself by your accomplishments

and quit focusing on who you are not. When you focus on what you do not have, it triggers unnecessary negative energy that would often hinder your progress.

Write down your positive qualities and keep reading them out to yourself until you begin to believe them. This will cause them to be embedded in your subconscious mind thus empowering yourself from within.

On the same note, stop trying to prove yourself to others and allow someone to love you for who you are. Give yourself a chance not only to just give love but also receive love. Be very conscious of actions that go towards the need to try and prove yourself and immediately stop it.

The act of constantly seeking approval can destroy you and push your partner away. You must consciously begin to believe in yourself and believe you are good enough. Let people's approval or disapproval not define you. This will begin by renewing your mind to understand that God loves you and approves of you and His approval is all you need.

Furthermore, you have to give up unrealistic expectations from people. This means you turn off your expectation button and focus on others things. If you are in a healthy relationship, understand that your spouse may never bring himself to share the intimacy you desire.

Learn to accept what they can offer and this will kill the desire to be needy.

Treat rejection as an opportunity for self-reflection. Rejection could easily point to an area in your life that you need to work on and become a better person. So you can turn rejection into an opportunity for self-growth. This might require you to begin to revisit experiences in your childhood that translated into rejection, process them and pull them from your sub-conscious mind. Write down incidences in your past that caused you to feel rejected and allow yourself to feel the pain you felt as I explained in chapter two.

If you were rejected by a parent and they are still alive, you might want to go to them and tell them how you feel and how it hurt you. You will be surprised they were not even aware of what they did. Perhaps they did what they did based on what they knew best at the time. This will help you bring closure. Above all, love yourself and believe in yourself more than anyone else can. Be your own source of happiness and learn to be contented by just being you.

HAVE YOU BECOME A REHAB FOR BROKEN AND DETACHED MEN?

The description of what love is, was already subconsciously programmed in us from childhood. So when we are looking for a partner we often look for somebody who fits our preconceived description of love. We are attracted to what is familiar to us. Most women attract

a man who is like their father and most men are attracted to women who are like their mothers.

Unfortunately this will work against women or men who were raised in a dysfunctional home. If the father was detached, rough and rude, the little girl grows with what was modeled to her as love and as she grows up, she finds herself attracted to what she is familiar with, rude rough men like her father. Consequently, you end up as a grown woman becoming a rehabilitation centre for broken men.

For instance, perhaps you saw your mother nurse a broken man and so this is not strange but familiar to you. Growing up as a child watching your mother take care of her broken husband who is your father creates a picture in your mind that love is a project. Unconsciously, you begin to attract men with issues because to you love means pouring and devoting yourself to fixing a man. This is certainly an unhealthy relationship that does not last. Eventually, you will find yourself single again and the cycle continues where you will attract the same type of man again and break up again.

This means you find yourself attracting the same men or same women with just different names and different faces. This tends to continue until the moment light is shed in your path to realize you need to deal with your own brokenness in order to have a different perspective of what love is.

This will require you to reprogram your mind by allowing a proper marriage to be modeled before you. This will demand that you look for two or three couples that have a good healthy marriage, be close to them and allow their marriages to be models and patterns for you to embrace. Accordingly, this will begin to change your perspective on marriage thereby enabling you to reprogram your mind. Eventually, you will now be empowered to choose a spouse wisely and be well informed leading to a healthy relationship.

No matter who rejected you, whether it was your parents, your siblings, a caretaker or a spouse, you can rise above that rejection and allow yourself to love and be loved.

YOU GET EASILY BORED

Every relationship begins with a big element of fun, excitement and a feel good feeling. In a new relationship you enjoy the adventure of discovering each other and the joy of spending time together. However, a short while later, many people tend to get bored and they just do not understand why.

Generally, people get bored when the spark, chemistry and butterflies are gone from the relationship. Additionally, when the excitement and the good feeling are gone out of the relationship, boredom will undoubtedly kick in. One is also likely to experience boredom when the adventure of discovering each other slows down and the relationship gets into routines and becomes predictable.

Love is beyond feelings, spark or chemistry. Feelings come and go and when they go some people get bored and end up breaking the relationship. They then jump into another relationship but after a while the spark goes even with the next person and boredom kicks in thereby breaking that relationship. Eventually, one ends up in a cycle

of broken relationships. To fight boredom you must understand that love is not based on what you feel, it is based on commitment.

Love is not just about emotions and feelings. It is about commitment, and being consciously responsible to that commitment. One of the reasons people get bored is that they lack the understanding that love is a commitment and a responsibility. You commit to love somebody because they exhibit the qualities of the person you want as a spouse. Consequently, when the sparks and the feelings dissipate, you will still be committed to this person because it is a consciously informed decision that you made. Equally, you need this important quality of commitment to stick with one partner for the rest of your life in marriage, even when life changes, feelings fade and the person equally evolves.

The process of falling in love begins with being physically attracted to somebody. This is what draws you to and makes you like your preferred person. When people fall in love they hardly survive the turbulences of life, but when they stand in love they develop stamina to withstand every storm that life allows them to face.

It is important to state clearly that there is nothing like love at first sight. This is at best attraction at first sight or simply infatuation; because you cannot love somebody you do not know. An ideal relationship demands that after liking someone, the next thing to do is to establish friendship so that you get to know the person better. In due course, if you discover that they have good character, you are

compatible, they subscribe to the values that you embrace and they have the qualities of the person you want, you can then proceed with the relationship and eventually chemistry begins to develop as you enjoy spending time together.

Love does not just happen, you choose who to love and you make a decision to commit to the person you are attracted to. You must know why you love somebody because this is what will keep you in that relationship when the spark and the feelings fade.

YOU CAN PREVENT THE BOREDOM

As discussed above, mostly boredom kicks in when the spark, butterflies and chemistry are gone from the relationship or when the relationship settles into a routine or the adventure of discovering each other slows down. Nonetheless, there is a solution to this dilemma.

It is scientifically proven that you can bring back the spark or the chemistry in your relationship. To understand this, you must first identify the genesis of the spark or the chemistry. Our bodies are made of hormones and if we understand the hormonal chemistry of our body, it will help us decode the chemistry behind love. Have you ever wondered why it is called chemistry? It is simply because it involves hormonal chemistry.

When you like or you are attracted to somebody the first hormone

released is a feel good hormone called dopamine. This hormone is released when we do things that feel good to us. Dopamine produces some kind of addictive behaviors. That is why at the beginning of a relationship you cannot stop seeing your partner; you are in actual sense addicted to them. It is all about passionate love. At this point, the relationship can be so exhilarating and even all-consuming. High levels of dopamine can lead to loss of sleep and loss of appetite. This means that you can be so “in love” that you cannot eat or even sleep. You have heard people say, “I can’t eat, I can’t sleep.” This is true because the dopamine levels are high which takes away the appetite and sleep.

However, it is important to note that the effects of dopamine hormone are temporary. It does not last long and explains why sparks fade away after a while in relationships. In due course, when the spark goes off some people get bored because of the absence of the good feeling. Nevertheless you can rekindle the spark by shaking things up, breaking routines and doing fun things that make you happy together. Dopamine is subconsciously stimulated when you do fun things together. **Unpredictability stimulates the dopamine system too.**

If you decide to commit to someone, even when the spark goes, you remain in the relationship and consciously do things that make you happy together which will stimulate the dopamine hormone as mentioned above thus killing the boredom.

As you decide to marry this person, there should be no fear of chemistry or bonding because sex brings a sacred bond in marriage.

Besides being a spiritual bond, this can also be explained scientifically. When you get married and have sex, a hormone called oxytocin is secreted. This hormone is referred to as the cuddle or attachment hormone. This hormone enhances bonding in relationships and also helps reinforce the positive feelings that one already feels towards those he/she loves. Sex is therefore very important in marriage because it keeps the marital bond.

This also explains why sex is dangerous before marriage: it creates a bond with somebody you are not sure, have the qualities that you prefer to experience in your preferred marriage partner. Sex before marriage comes with a risk of bonding with the wrong person and regretting later in life. Therefore, you must follow the right process, be attracted to a person, develop friendship and in so doing, be in position to determine if they have the qualities of the person you desire to spend the rest of your life with. Only then can you decide to love them and commit to them. Ultimately, spending time together and doing fun things together will develop that spark and after you get married, there will be a strong bond created between you and your significant other that will enable you to live happily ever after.

Be very sober about the genesis of your relationship or what brought you together because it might be the same reason you will need to sustain the relationship. If you fall in love with someone who was kind

to you when you were sick or in a disaster, you may need sickness and disaster for that person to sustain kindness.

FEAR OF COMMITMENT

Spending the rest of your life with one person can be scary. The thought of “till death do us part” causes some people to freak out and run. People with fear of commitment are fine with being in a relationship but when the next step to marriage is mentioned fear comes-streaming in. This mostly happens to men. Fear of commitment to marriage might come due to fear of being vulnerable, fear of losing your freedom or fear of the responsibilities that come with marriage.

The good news is that you can overcome this fear. The Bible says God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love and of a sound mind. You need to meditate on this scripture and confess it over your life and allow the truth in it to rule your life. If you are in a relationship with somebody who has the fear of commitment and they constantly avoid discussing about the future, it is time to bring the topic up in a friendly manner. Let him/her know that you feel and perceive that they are afraid and you are only trying to help them through it by establishing the causes of the fear. They might need therapy to help them navigate through their fears.

SELF SABOTAGE

In life there will be things that will happen that are completely out of our control. On the contrary, our relationship status can be within our control. There are times when the only person standing in the way is actually you. Sometimes we self-sabotage or we become our own stumbling block. In this chapter I will be highlighting different reasons you could be the one standing in your own way to marriage.

THE PERSON YOU WANT TO MARRY DOES NOT EXIST

A lot of people have an imagined perfect picture of the person they want to marry and more often than not, that person does not exist.

Sometimes this picture can be twisted especially if you spend time with married couples. If most of your friends are married, you are used to seeing a polished man or woman not realizing that they have been married for a while and have worked and polished each other.

There are people who have very high expectations of a partner not

understanding that in most cases, God will give you raw material and not a finished product. I have heard some ladies say “all good men are taken” that statement is very true but they fail to recognize that these men look good now because they are taken but before they were taken, they were not well to do. Somebody has invested years of hard-work making them look and be good.

So, what you need to do is take somebody as long as you are compatible, they have good character, proper values and you like them, then you can commit to marry them. Eventually, they will become the person you desire as you spend time together working on each other. Remember you attract who you are not what you want. Deep calls unto deep.

It is ok to have standards but do not be too picky or have unrealistic expectations. When I met my husband, I was apprehensive to get into a serious relationship with him because I did not like how he dressed. I was too picky, until a friend of mine told me that I should give him a chance because I can change his clothes once we get married. I would have lost a wonderful man whom I have been married to for the last 15 years and still counting because of how he dressed.

Some people are looking for a woman or man who will knock them off their feet but that does not always happen. Love and chemistry develop with time as explained above.

JUDY ACHERO
INDECISIVENESS

Fundamentally, indecisiveness means that you just will not decide, postponing the inevitable. Yes, you are surrounded by wonderful men or women but something in you will not allow to decide who you want. Indecisiveness means that even when you have a potential partner, you will not pick on him/her because you feel someone better is coming. You always feel you deserve someone better and so you keep waiting for the person who might never show up.

There is no better solution to this except for you to wake up to the reality that if you have to get married in this lifetime, you have to make a conscious decision to pick one person and commit to them. You have to decide to make that decision. Not making a decision is also a decision and it has consequences. The longer you wait the more difficult choosing becomes. You would rather be wrong with a decision made than be right with a decision never made.

PERHAPS YOU ARE UNPREPARED

Somebody once said that marriage is the only institution where a certificate is issued before going through the module but the truth of the matter is, we can change that narrative by educating ourselves on marriage before the marriage actually happens. Anything you do without proper preparation will highly result into failure. You don't learn the art of navigation during the storm you learn prior to the

storm. Before God gave Esther a husband, she had to go through a preparation period of one year.

Nobody else can prepare you for marriage except you. You have to take the initiative of preparing for marriage by knowing what you need to know about marriage. Find out the role of a wife and the role of a husband. On the same note, get a married couple to mentor you. Moreover, there are books authored by authentic writers which can guide you on marriage. Before getting married you need to read at least three to five different books on marriage and by the time you get married you are well equipped and well prepared for what you are getting your life into.

The institution of marriage does not run on auto pilot. It has rules and principles that make it work and if you get in without acquainting yourself with these rules and principles, you will mess it up and turn the blame onto the devil.

Perhaps you are waiting on God for a spouse and God is waiting for you to equip yourself first so that your spouse can be revealed to you. Prepare yourself by taking time to understand what marriage is all about. God loves His children and as such, you cannot be praying for a spouse and then He gives you someone that is not well prepared thereby making you miserable. God is not the author of accidents, and if you get into marriage not prepared you are an accident about to happen.

What we call delay could actually be God's Mercy to enable you prepare adequately so that you don't miss your opportunities when they come. Proverbs 24: 27 says Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field; And afterward build your house.

ARE YOU FINANCIALLY PREPARED FOR MARRIAGE?

In most African cultures, before you get a girl from her family, you are required to pay a bride price, which varies from tribe to tribe or family to family or culture to culture. This can be an expensive affair. However, the bottom-line is that you must pay some considerable amount.

Most people halt their plans because they are not prepared financially.

In my book "Becoming who you have not become" I have addressed this issue from a business perspective where people will tell you I do not have money to start that business.

Finances limit many people from commencing the pursuit of their dreams; they will wait until they have the monetary capital to venture into new fields. Notwithstanding, the real capital is in developing passion, creativity, focus and tenacity and these define real capital. No amount of monetary capital will stop a passionate mind. Judy Acherero 2018, p.109

I totally believe that no amount of finances can stop a passionate

heart. I have done several projects that involve lots of money entirely by faith. Sometimes you will need to step out by faith and begin to plan for the dowry and the wedding as you trust God. The first wedding recorded in the New Testament had the wine run out, meaning they did not have enough money to buy enough wine for everybody but Jesus intervened and provided the best wine.

Few people marry with all the money needed at first but eventually when they begin to take the necessary steps towards the wedding, **God makes a way.** The day you get fed up of being single, you will begin to put your faith into action and money will find you.

There is a season to be young and happy and there comes a time when you begin to put your life together. Focus on the future, build your career, work on who you are because who you are is what you will bring into the marriage. This is the best time to pay attention to you and love yourself. In this season be your own best lover by treating yourself the way you desire to be treated. Nobody will love you better than you can love yourself. Discover what you like and what you do not like, as this will help you guide your partner on how to love you.

When two people who are prepared for marriage meet, they do not waste time trying to date for years, they both know what they want and they take the big step to marriage without wasting time.

JUDY ACHERO
YOU ARE NOT APPROACHABLE
AND ACCESSIBLE

When Eliezer was sent by Abraham to look for a wife for Isaac in Genesis 29, Eliezer went to the well where the women came to fetch water. His prayer was very simple, that the lady who will come to the well and when he asks for water, she will give him water and also be kind enough to give his camels, will be the one he will pick as a wife for Isaac. When Rebecca came to the well, she was approachable and willing to give Eliezer water and she even offered to give the Carmel's water. This is what qualified her to be Isaac's wife. She had an approachable heart and positive attitude which are key qualities.

There are people who put up a wall that even a potential partner who is interested cannot come close. You shut people from a far off by your sad look.

It is important to also be accessible. Do not live in isolation or be stuck to a routine, that the only place you can be found is either your work place or your house. Have a social life and be where people are. Somebody could be looking for your kind of person but they cannot find you because you are locked in your house alone.

HOW YOU CARRY YOURSELF

The image and attitude you project is sending the wrong signals to a potential spouse. It is disqualifying you as a potential wife/husband. When a man is looking for a wife, a woman to settle with, he is not

looking for a party girl but he is looking for a responsible woman. He is not looking for a woman who thinks life is one big party but he is looking for a settled, decent woman, whom he can take home as his wife and future responsible mother to his children.

He wants to see your values because those are the standards and ideals you will eventually instill in his children. For instance, if all you want is to party every weekend, drink yourself silly and have sex with him all the time, then he might wonder if this is how you will raise his daughters.

He is very likely to look for a woman he can trust, not a woman whose phone book is dominated by male names and dominant social media chats with men who are allegedly just platonic friends. Sooner or later, he may witness you flirting with them and perhaps you tell him that those men are as close as brothers. This automatically disqualifies you. **If a man cannot trust you he cannot marry you.**

Same also applies to a woman. When a woman wants to get married, she is looking for a responsible man; a man with a vision and who is self-driven. **She is not looking for a mama's boy or a man married to his phone. Neither is she looking for a pathetic person or a man with no proper morals or values.**

JUDY ACHERO
YOU ARE STILL HOLDING
ONTO SOMEBODY ELSE

Some people are still stuck to someone that left them many years back. They are still emotionally attached to that person and so they do not allow room for someone else. Others are actually having an emotional affair with somebody who is not available in the name of friendship. When all your emotional needs are met in a friendship, there is no urgency to get into a proper relationship leading to marriage.

Another reason some people are not married is that they are still holding on to a relationship that is dead. **If you are dating somebody for seven years and they are still not proposing it would be better to ask yourself if you need to consider walking out of that relationship.**

We have a lot of single people obsessed with marriage that they end up putting their life on hold waiting for marriage. Life is in seasons and singlehood is a season that you need to enjoy and not waste it sad and gloomy waiting for marriage. Pursue your purpose as you wait for your spouse. Rebeca was busy with her work at the well when marriage came knocking her door in Genesis and so was Ruth busy in the farm gleaning when Boaz first saw her as recorded in the book of Ruth. Enjoy your singlehood, keep moving and your spouse will find you along the path of your purpose.

Considering all the factors above, find out if there is any way you are sabotaging yourself and standing in the way of your marital destiny.

JUDY ACHERO

Clear off any negative tendencies and limiting behaviors so that you allow yourself to find love. The light at the end of the tunnel could be the flash of an oncoming train.

WHO SHOULD YOU MARRY

Who you marry is one of the most important decisions you will ever make in your life. This is a decision that will determine whether you will live happily ever after or be miserable for the rest of your life. Marrying the wrong person has the capacity to destroy your life and even your career or make you live in regret.

Knowing who to marry or who not to marry saves you the time you spend being single because you will not wander around. The fact that you know what you want means that you just go for it without any fear. If you do not know where you are going, you will waste a lot of time going round and will not even know when you arrive at your destination. When you know what you are looking for in a life partner, right from the first date you can tell if this will work or not. So you do not need to date ten ladies or men to get to the right one.

DATE WITH YOUR HEAD NOT YOUR HEART

Dating or courtship season is the most crucial stage of any relationship because this is where the foundation is laid. How you handle your

dating determines how things are going to tag along in the marriage. If we get it right before marriage, then we will solve 90% of the problems in marriage. I grew up hearing my mum say Prevention is better than cure on different circumstances. Even in marriage it is better to prevent a bad marriage than to spend the rest of your life trying to cure or fix the marriage. **Prevention can best be established while dating.**

Though the Bible does not talk directly about dating, it does speak volumes about relationships, Godly interactions and principles that can be applied to how you date. **The purpose of dating should be for gathering data. Gather as much information about your partner as much as possible. It is the time you spend together with the intention of knowing each other and learn as much as you can about your partner.** Remember, you will spend the rest of your life with this man/woman, so do not take dating lightly. You need to know them quite well to make an informed decision if you want to spend the rest of your life with them.

Dating should be a preparation time intended to bring two people together for the purpose of marriage. It is an evaluation process of whether you would like to spend the rest of your life with a specific person. Emotions tend to be so high during dating that many people are blinded not to get to know the person they are dating. Instead they tend to just get carried away by the emotions, the fun and excitement of dating.

This should however be a time when you are most sober and watchful.

This is a very crucial time in your life because it will determine the next phase you are about to step into. It will determine if you will choose this person as a life partner or not. My caution is that you date with your eyes open, try and push emotions aside, watch the person, look for any signs that would tell you to run for your life or not. Watch how they treat waiters in a restaurant; watch how they treat their mother or father; if he/she cannot take care of his/her mother who is related by blood how will he/she take care of you?

Most divorce cases are already cooked up in dating. You get into marriage with no clue of the person you are marrying and by the time you get married it is too late because you are headed for divorce.

HAVE A QUALITY CHECKLIST

Do you know the qualities of the man or the woman you want? It is important to spend some time and ask yourself this question, “What exactly am I looking for in a spouse?”

Before I met my husband, I wrote down a list of what I wanted in a husband, starting with the most important.

So when I saw a man showing interest, I would begin to watch them and see if they had at least the first five most important qualities as I had categorized them. This guided me a great deal to choosing who I wanted. One of the things at the top of my checklist was that I needed a

man who was serving God in ministry. I knew I was called to ministry and it was pertinent to settle down with a man with whom I would share similar Christian values. This meant that when for instance, I met a man who wanted to be a pilot and travel the world, my checklist immediately disqualified him. There is certainly nothing wrong with being a pilot but what I needed was somebody pursuing the call of God in ministry. I did not need to date a pilot for months to know he was not the right man.

It is important to have a list of the qualities of the person you are looking for and always go through the list to make sure you remind yourself of what you need. This way you will not be led by feelings or emotions but by clear facts. If somebody comes and they have none of the core qualities in your list, then do not compromise to accommodate them because later you will regret. Stay focused about what you need and even if time moves, do not allow desperation to make you settle for less than you desire.

THE PROCESS OF GETTING A SPOUSE IS VERY SPIRITUAL

One of the most common mistakes young people make is not involving God in the process of choosing a spouse. God was highly involved in the process of getting Adam a wife as a father. He ordered her steps to him because Adam had a good relationship with God. This should set a precedent on the formula of choosing a spouse.

Proverbs 31 was written by a mother advising his son on the type of

woman to marry. According to the writer a man should be guided by a woman's faith and character in making a choice.

Only the Lord can give a good wife and we can equally say a good husband. According to Proverbs 19:14 NLT, "Fathers can give their sons an inheritance of houses and wealth, but only the Lord can give an understanding wife"

Involve God while choosing a spouse, pray and ask God to lead you to the right person. Whichever way God communicates to you, ask Him to communicate to you about this most important decision you are about to make and He will do it. Only God knows the future and so only He can help you choose the right person for your future.

HOW DO I KNOW SHE/HE IS THE ONE?

Adam had an inner unexplainable confirmation; an inner witness that told him Eve was the bone of his bones. Adam had a good relationship with and a deep intimate walk with God that is why it was not hard for him to discern God's will. Equally, if you cultivate a deep and intimate walk with God, the Holy Spirit will unveil things into your spirit thereby enabling you to know His will at ease.

When the time to get a spouse comes, do not depend on your own understanding but trust God to bring the right person to you. Isaiah 34:16 says by God's spirit He will gather them. God is concerned

with every detail of our lives. He desires to play a key role in every major decision we make. More so, when it comes to marriage, you must allow Him to draw the right person to you and the Holy Spirit within you will give you witness.

If you are still in doubt and wonder if she/he is the right one or not, it is very likely she/he is not the one. If you are still checking her/him out for two years, then she is most likely not the one. The process of getting a wife should be spiritual. Thus, if there is no inner witness, you can go to God in prayer and inquire if the person is the one for you.

GOD KNOWS THE UNSEEN DETAILS

It is important to trust God to direct you to your spouse because God knows the unseen details. One lady married a man and later realized that he was doing some illegal businesses on the side. If you can only spend quality time in prayer and invite God to help you chose a partner; He is a loving father, He will not allow you to marry somebody who will put you and your children in danger.

God will not allow you to be trapped into a marriage with somebody who has other agendas for marriage such as using you financially or for other gains. When you invite Him while choosing a spouse he will order your steps to the right person

JUDY ACHERO
WHO TO MARRY

Marry someone with similar values

Marry somebody who shares the same values with you. Your values are the things you value most. For example, if you value spirituality and the things of God then you must marry somebody who values spirituality. Do not compromise some of your values to make someone fit in.

If you pick a partner that has similar beliefs and attitudes, usually the relationship is easier to navigate. Mostly we do not discuss our values or find out what our beliefs are until a problem arises. This can be avoided. **Character determines destiny and it is important to marry somebody whose character is not questionable.** Otherwise you will enter marriage with serious cracks.

Marry someone you are compatible with

The blueprint of God is to have a spouse comparable to you. Comparable means as good as equal, commensurate, compatible, similar or suitable. This means, a person who is compatible physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually; somebody who is not coming to complete you but to complement you. You can be different but well suited for each other.

Marry somebody you are attracted to physically

Marry somebody you are physically attracted to. It is no secret men are attracted by what they see. No man will look at a woman and say “Wooooooh that woman has Jesus; I want her to be my wife.” Before a man can see the Jesus in you he has seen how you look. To all the men; make sure what you see is good. Looks are not the only thing to look for because looks can be temporary; however it is an important aspect in marriage especially to men. Ask yourself, if this is a person you want your children to resemble ; if you are proud of them in public and can go with them to function at your work place.

WHO NOT TO MARRY

Do not marry a man without a job

A jobless man is not ready for marriage; he is ready for a job.

Before God gave man a wife he gave him a job, by putting him in the garden in Eden to till it. **The order of God is to first get a job then a wife follows because the husband is the provider and so he must have a source of income.** If you are in relationship with a man and he is jobless, then wait for him to get a job before you can marry him.

It is equally important to ask him about his financial status, how much he owes and what other financial obligations he has. If he takes care

of his siblings it is important to know before you step into marriage so that when you get married you know that half of his salary is for sending to his home. **Watch out his spending patterns,** is he good in managing finances or making financial decisions. The number one cause of divorce is related to finances and so the issue of finances should not be taken lightly.

Do not marry a man without a vision because where there is no vision the Bible says people perish .Find out as the head of the house what is his five year plan? Where does he see himself in ten years?

Do not marry somebody who does not love your children

If you are a single father or mother, be very careful about choosing a partner who you are sure loves your children. Right from the first date let them know you have a child. If he/she does not love your child the same way he/she loves you, then he/she is not worth having you. Children are a blessing and no child is a mistake, whether born out of wedlock or not. Nobody should therefore make you feel like you are not good enough because you have a child. Psalm 127: 3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

It therefore important to mention it right from your first date. Find a way to say it directly or indirectly so that if he/she decides to carry on with the relationship, they are aware that you are not coming alone

into the relationship. For instance, if you are meeting him for lunch, you can tell him you need to rush back because you have to pick your children from school a little later; or change your social media picture to show your child with a note describing the child is a blessing.

Can two walk together unless they agree?

The Bible warns us against being unequally yoked with non-believers. It is unwise to date someone who does not love God, somebody who has not surrendered his/her life to God. The Bible in II Corinthians 6:14-15, TLB states: “Don't be teamed with those who do not love the Lord, for what do the people of God have in common with the people of sin? How can light live with darkness? And what harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a Christian be a partner with one who doesn't believe?”

In addition, Amos 3:3, NKJV states, "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"

Do not date someone who claims to be a Christian but does not live it. The bible says in Corinthians 5:11, TLB: “What I meant was that you are not to keep company with anyone who claims to be a brother Christian but indulges in sexual sins, or is greedy, or is a swindler, or worships idols, or is a drunkard, or abusive. Don't even eat lunch with such a person.”

This is very important for every believer. If you are guided by the

principles of God then allow them to guide you all the way including choosing a spouse.

DO NOT SPILL YOUR BEANS TOO EARLY

Do not go telling him/her all about your dirty linen too soon. If you had 2 abortions or you were a drug addict or you have slept with 100 women, those are details you release a bit later into the relationship. Instead, give the person you are dating time to see the good side of you so that when you tell him/her your other drama he already knows you better than what you were. He /she will be in a position to differentiate who you are from who you were.

1 Corinthians 2: 2 “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”

In chapter four of my book “Warrior Woman” I have spoken in detail to every woman and equally to men who have had a messy past. Those who did not have it all together or made mistakes. The good news however is that you do not have to be a victim of your past, you can begin a new chapter in your life and do it right. Do not allow your past mistakes to disqualify you from a good spouse. If you decide to turn around and do it right, God is able to forgive you and give you a fresh beginning qualifying you for a wonderful spouse your past notwithstanding.

Hebrews 9:13-14 NLT “Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer could cleanse people’s bodies

from ceremonial impurity. Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God.

DO NOT MARRY JACOB RATHER MARRY ISRAEL

Jacob was a man who had character flaws. The Bible gives an account of him as a conman, a trickster. Later in his life God transformed him and changed his identity and he became Israel; the same man but transformed by God. Sometimes you can meet somebody who is in their Jacob version which means major character flaws. **Allow them to be transformed before you can commit to spending the rest of your life with them.** In most cases what you see does not really change unless submitted to God. So allow them to experience true transformation from Jacob into Israel before committing to them.

DO NOT SETTLE FOR LESS

Most people know what they want for a spouse initially .However as years go by they begin to loosen up the standards. If they stay a little longer than expected ,desperation kicks in and whoever comes after and proposes becomes the right partner.The person settles for just anyone.In most cases when this happens, it's just a matter of time before trouble kicks in and the marriage begins to go down the drain. This leaves both parties involved broken and having to now deal with bigger issues. This might include children caught up in this mess who have to be raised by a single parent or be raised in a broken home.

Don't settle for less than what God has for you, if you wait patiently
the right partner comes.

CONCLUSION:

THE DEVIL HATES MARRIAGE

After considering carefully all the issues discussed in this book that hinder many from marriage, if none of these relate to your life, we may conclude that the enemy is sabotaging your marital destiny. Marriage is a blessing from God. This explains why the enemy will do whatever it takes to hinder a marital union. He hates marriage and this is evident in Genesis when he attacked the first marriage between Adam and Eve.

If this is your case, you will have to declare war over every force sabotaging your marital destiny. Refuse to be denied; refuse any form of sabotage through prayer by standing firm on the word of God.

2nd Corinthians 9:8 BSB **And God is able** to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

ARE YOU TIRED OF DATING?

If you are tired of moving from one relationship to another, this is a good time to surrender and allow God to choose the right person for you. After several relationships, I was so tired of coffee and all the eating that comes with dating that I told God to give me a husband. I told Him I was not interested in dating and wanted a man who was

serious and ready to settle just as I was. I told God I did not want a boyfriend but a fiancé. This meant that I had officially exited the dating game. Undoubtedly God gives us the desires of our heart.

I met my husband in September 2003 for the very first time. Although I had never seen him, a month after he told me straight up that he wanted to get married and that I was his wife. According to my checklist, he had 10 out of the eleven qualities I had written for my preferred husband. Despite his high score on my checklist, I still took time to pray and enquire of the lord if this was the husband He had prepared for me. In addition, because of the principles on spiritual sonship I felt it was important to consult with my spiritual parents before making this lifetime decision.

After praying and consulting, I accepted to proceed with marriage to the man God had brought into my life. On our first date, we met to plan for our visit to his parents, in which visit I was to be introduced as the wife to be. My then fiancé had made it clear to me that he was not taking me to his parents for approval but for a formal introduction.

Every subsequent meeting we had was to plan for the wedding which happened seven months later on 17th April 2004. To God be the glory.

By the time of writing this book in 2019, we have been married for fifteen years and still counting. I took a decision to surrender to God and allow Him to give me a husband and like He did for me ,He is not a respect or of persons He can do it for you too.

I have learnt that the process of finding love or a suitable partner is very spiritual. Just as God brought Eve to Adam and Adam identified her as ‘bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh,’ allow God to bring your own spouse to you.

God told Abraham to go and sacrifice his son Isaac at a specific mountain in Genesis 22. He specified which mountain because He had organised a lamb at that specific mountain which Abraham was to sacrifice instead of Isaac. If Abraham had decided to go to any other mountain he would have missed on the lamb already prepared by God to sacrifice and would have ended up sacrificing Isaac.

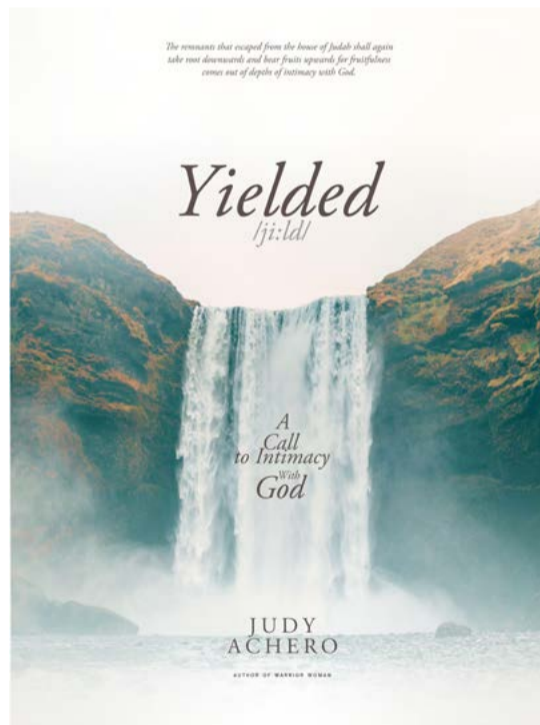
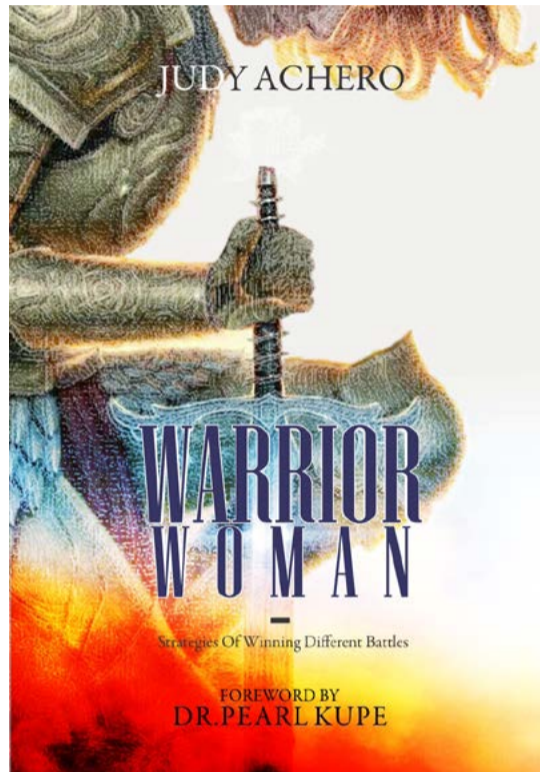
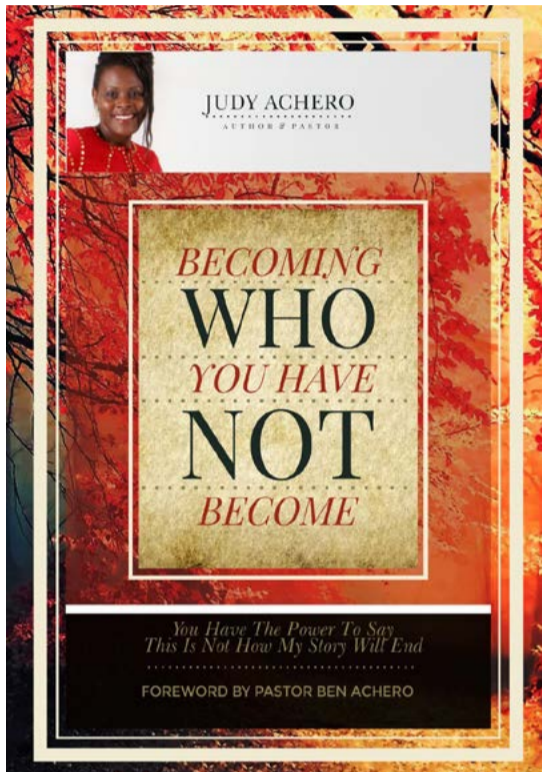
This story can be used in the context of marriage to indicate that God has a specific person for you to marry. So if you partner with God in helping you find your suitable spouse, He will order your steps into him/her. Not every mountain is your mountain, if you climb the wrong mountain you will kill your Isaac.

Not every man / woman is your spouse if you marry the wrong person, you will destroy your destiny.

If you desire marriage, God has a spouse for you and so do not give up. In God’s time He makes all things beautiful and He will decorate your future with a good wife/husband. To every person that has been hurt by love before, may God give you a spouse that will make your heart forget that it was ever broken.

Looking forward to your beautiful wedding in Jesus name.

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IN THIS BOOK

“Why am I still single? is a question most single men and women who desire marriage ask. In this book Judy Achero will uncover different strategies the enemy uses to hinder many from marriage.

This book is solely for those who desire marriage. It's important to highlight that every individual has a right scripturally to chose marriage or singhhood. Unfortunately marriage is sometimes elevated as the most important thing, without which life is incomplete. Only God makes us complete and nothing including marriage should be desired more than God. Singlehood is a choice and should not be treated as second best or as a disease for which the cure is marriage.

However Marriage should be considered as a good choice also. The first thing God gave a woman immediately after creating her in Genesis was a husband. God also looked at Man after creating him and said that it is not good for man to be alone and he immediately created a wife for him. God took the initiative to provide Adam with a wife and created Eve with a husband already waiting, meaning that finding a spouse should not be a struggle.

This book tackles different circumstances that contradicts this, making the process of finding a spouse a struggle. Some are completely beyond our control and others we are responsible of them. This book will unravel each one of them, after which the wait will be over.

The strength of any building is determined by its foundation, same apply with marriage. The strength of a marriage is highly determined by the foundation you lay while dating. This book will also give you tips needed to guide you and help you build a healthy foundation for your marriage while dating.

A must read for any single person aspiring to get married!

THE AUTHOR

Judy Achero is a wife, a mother of two, a Pastor and a mentor to many . Together with her husband, Pastor Ben Achero, they pastor Jubilee Christian Church, a vibrant church at the heart of Johannesburg.

Judy Achero is an author of three books. Her first book “becoming Who You Have Not Become” awakens you to become more than who you are now. It brings you to an understanding that no matter how high you have risen there are still more heights to rise to and you can dream yet another dream. Her second book “Warrior Woman” is a masterpiece tailor made to arm women with strategies of winning different battle and emerge as warriors.

Pastor Judy is the host of a talk show tagged “DEEP TALK” With Judy, a program that deals with real life issues currently on Youtube.

She has a passion for Women with a mandate to unlock greatness trapped inside a woman through the word of God. She hosts Daughters of Zion ladies meetings in Johannesburg that has been life transforming to many women. She is also an itinerant preacher ministering both in and outside south Africa as a conference speaker whose presentation and ministry has produced many documented testimonies.

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