

S O L'

EDITION 1 | 2023

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LINDA K JANGULO



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THE VILLAINIZATION OF FEMININITY IN
POP CULTURE



Editors Corner

BY: S O L'

We are back! I'm excited about the things that we are planning with S O L' and ensuring that we are more intentional about what we do because #NoLies I think we do #Dope stuff.

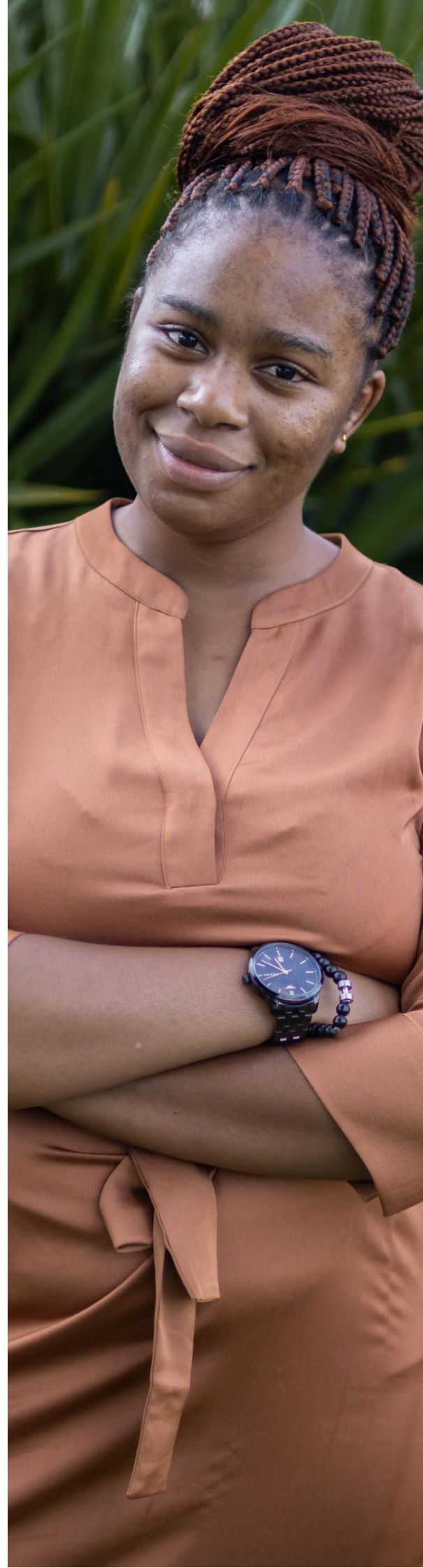
I hope your festive season was good and that you set goals that are personal and your future self would be proud of. I started off the year at a Christian Camp which I have been going to for years, being surrounded by the LORD and it was great. When you serve you remind yourself of the service that GOD did for you and the little things that the LORD did to remind you that He came to this world to serve. After that, I embarked on a 21-day fast OMG #NoLies it wasn't easy. No eating, praying three times a day, and no social media. #NoLies in the beginning no socials were hard. Where was a going to get my laughs, how was I going to know what's happening in the world and know what's trending but you know what I realized, it's a distraction. Dedicating your time to only the LORD and hearing what he saying is something we don't do too much off, we think our Sunday service is enough and the scripture we read on the train is good but at the end of the day it's not. We need to be more intentionally about spending time with GOD, now I'm not saying that everyone should go on a fast, like I said it was HARD BUT we do need to challenge ourselves and find way to push our faith. We serve a big GOD we do need to have big faith and I think that is something we all struggle with.

We see it on reels and see told but it's all about but I think it's a personal journey, YOU decide if you want to read the word more, YOU decide if you want to increase your worship, YOU decide how you want to share the word.

So in this first edition I want to remind you that it's your journey just like it's your year and only you can challenge and push yourself to where you want to go next, GOD beleive in you, it's time for you too.

S O L'

FOUNDER | CHIEF EDITOR





"I TRY TO LEAVE PEOPLE FEELING OR
JUST BEING BETTER THAN I FOUND
THEM."

Edition 1:

Yahweh Yireh

Yahweh Yireh - The LORD will provide (Genesis 22:14)

The reason the first issue is also called Yatser which means Master Potter because GOD did this and #Honestly without Him and His perfect timing this would not be happening. There were many times in this journey were giving up, stopping and just saying, "I tired" was soo tempting BUT Master Potter did His thing and reminded me that this is not about me it's about spreading the Word of GOD, GOD Master Potter did this and so we thank Yatser

S O L', is really moving and it's exciting. We are excited to do our first edition of the digital magazine and keen to have Linda K Jangulo as our very first edition.

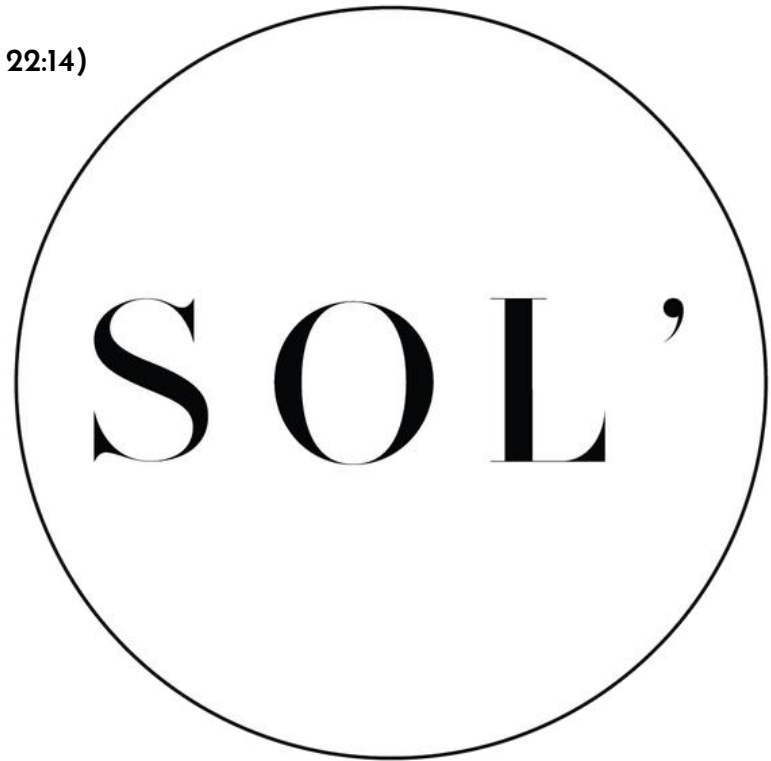
Guys #NoLies I think that you always shoot for the stars because and see what GOD will do because that is what I did when I approached Linda. I literally DMed her on Instagram and asked if she would be keen to be on the cover and in the end I said, "You don't have to reply BUT it would be awesome if you do" firstly don't do that have confidence in your brand or whatever you are doing.

I believe that creating this magazine and finally making this a thing is worth it and so whomever you approach let that be something you remember.

When I think about the running theme through the editions I thought it would be fitting to start with, "What is your definition of a relationship with GOD" because I wanted everyone to explore internally what they define their relationship with GOD as.

Is it praying every day, going to church from your couch, is it a theatre play or a musical or is it sharing the Word of GOD I hope you start to develop your personal answer to this question.

The main scripture and name of this edition were **Yahweh Yireh** which is the LORD will provide because I don't know where this will go, I'm hoping someone who needs a different view of what a magazine is, to a mother to realizes you can look gorgeous and still raise your amazing children, to a young 30 year old who will change how Africa is looked at when it comes to skincare or feminism but regardless will provide.



S O L'



"I AM A FIRM BELIEVER IN DIVINE
ORCHESTRATION AND SYNCHRONICITIES"



Linda K. Jangulo

I am old enough to be on this blog, I am a mother to amazing boys. They are my pride and joy. Am an entrepreneur in the beauty space.

What are the trends that have shaped your style today?

So my sense of style I wouldn't say is shaped by any particular trend. So growing up I was pretty much a tomboy, and so I preferred baggy jeans and shorts, but as I became a young woman I somewhat found my feminine flare, which leaned towards classy chic. And today I find myself more into activewear/athleisure with a touch of classy sexy and cool looks. beautify

Tell us how did you come up with your business?

Let's just say the business found me.... I am a firm believer in divine orchestration and synchronicities. A few months after meeting my business partner, purely as a mother at the children's school. We found ourselves joining forces to start Miss Salon London Morningside! 2 years later we're still here

What are some of the biggest fears or concerns you had in the first year of your business and what lessons have you learned?

From the get-go, I was blessed to have partnered with someone that had already learned the hard lessons of the beauty industry (Salon running specifically). That made it easy to focus on learning and understanding the business. I also think because I am not above learning, I was open to making mistakes as we went along. Having said that if. I could point out one thing, it was letting my partner down. As a novice, I was always checking myself...

What do you think black women need more of?

Wow, this is a big one, and not just for black women. I think women need to be taken a bit more seriously in the work/business arena. Am not sure what the stats are but I know it's hard for women to get funding without first being made to jump through hoops. Secondly, I believe as women and as black women, we lack support from each other. We must not wait for corporates to validate us before we show interest in black-owned products/businesses.

What would the title of your autobiography be? - In one sentence, how would you capture Linda

*The title would be BRAVE
A fearless woman that will stand up for her own.*

Define what is a relationship with GOD to you.

EVERYTHING!! My relationship with God is the essence of who I am. I have had moments of doubt and fear, but each time I remember God's promises for my life, how he never forsakes me or abandons me, it rejuvenates me.

What is the best piece of business or life advice you've read or received?

*C.S Lewis always has great go-to "anecdotes"
My favourite is " There are far, far better things ahead than the ones you leave behind
Don't doubt your value, don't run from who you are.*

How does your personal style and your relationship with Christ blend together in your daily life?

Interestingly I think my personal style in reference to my relationship with God is centered around authenticity. My character doesn't waver depending on whom I'm talking to. I try to leave people feeling or just being better than I found them.

Share up to five fun facts about you - hidden talents, big accomplishments, or other things you do that people may not know about!

I think am pretty much an open book, but one major part of who I am is that I am a clown of note. My Instagram stories somewhat embody this side of me. Hidden talent I like to believe I can sing (in my shower of course), Biggest accomplishment is raising these boys with their heads screwed on. I know it takes a village to raise children but I can confidently say I've been that constant authority/friendly figure they can rely on.

BRAVE



Interestingly I think my personal style in reference to my relationship with God is centered around authenticity. My character doesn't waver depending on whom I'm talking to. I try to leave people feeling or just being better than I found them.

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IT'S HIS
VALENTINE'S DAY
TOO

BY: S O L'



Reservations. **Check**

Flowers. **Check**

Sent cute messages about our love. **Check.**

Romantic dinner. **Check**

She's happy. **Check**

BUT what about him?

When it comes to love and Valentine's day, it all seems to be all about the girl so much so that even most guys have renamed the day "The #2 woman's day" the question is why is that? Why is it all about the girl and never about the guy? Well, first I think it's important to get into the mind of a guy. What does He think about love and a day in which he's expected to step Up and show his love 20% more, Valentine's day, most importantly where does this all fit in with GOD?

"Valentine's day, I don't know how to feel about it because I don't quite get the idea of celebrating love once a year and I hate to sound like these people who preach "you should love your partner throughout the year after year" in people's faces but there is a point in that statement. There is value even in a day dedicated to love and expressing love, but it makes no sense that it's not an everyday thing. So I basically don't believe in Valentine's day because of that, I feel like love should be expressed every day. Dinner dates and gifts aren't the most important thing but showing that person that you love them, through the little things that make her or him aware that "I actually pay attention" and consider when you talk and your desires" said one guy.

"I like the idea of Valentine's day and when you have someone to share the day with you literally feel like "something is in the air" because you get into the spirit of it, equally HOWEVER the world has taken it as another woman's day when it should be a #2-way stream. The bases of this day should be about love BUT today when the 14th comes around, girls want more, they expect more, and it's almost like the level should be raised to 120. Levels of expectation are automatically raised BUT only for the guy." said another

And that's #CoolDays and all BUT how about those guys that get hurt, YES ladies guys also get hurt when it comes to the world of love. Guys who wear their hearts on their sleeve and still believe in love after all this time, what's there take on this? "As a generation that is supposed to be moving to equality how we can when simple things like Valentines still favour one gender?"

It almost feels like we are not moving anywhere and that's a problem. The 14th is about appreciating lovers and it doesn't have to be couple vibes it can be brother & sister, friend vibes. It's just about appreciating someone you love.

I was in the mall recently and I saw a guy getting caught stealing.

Guess what he stole?

Chocolates.

And all that went through my mind is this guy has a girl that was obviously unhappy with whatever he gave her on the 14th and so the only solution he had was to steal. Now that's the amount of pressure that Valentine's day puts on couples but especially guys, because a typical girl wants to brag to her friends about what she got and this girl couldn't and what girls don't realize is that it's puts guys under serious financial stress.

Girls shouldn't think that Valentine's Day is important." Said a third.

Lovers day, the 14th, the famous Valentine's day it's a big deal hey, #Seriously it is and what we don't realize is that it shouldn't be. It's not about chocolates, heart shaped teddy bears or romantic dinner and expensive and lavish gifts it's not about any of that because if you think about it, we are all in a relationship. We are all in a relationship with GOD which then means that for that ONE day, the famous and today ever so marketeed Valentine's day GOD is going to show His love, for this day only He's going to throw you blessings upon blessings and just turn it up a level for you because on a normal day He doesn't. I mean it's not like He doesn't give you joy in the morning or anything like that #SarcasticVoice. So why do we like the typical girl feel that we just deserve next level thiwhile leaving GOD out there with no praise or thanksgiving like we do with most guys?

Does He not love you far beyond the 14th? An unconditional love that I don't think you even understand. Why do we want sooo much from God yet we give Him absolutely nothing.

"But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore the the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands" (Deuteronomy 7:8-9 NIV)

He shows you Valentine's day when He blesses you with a new day. When He answers your prayers because the Lord does answer prayers. When He contently put a blanket of protection over you and when He shows his love. When He keeps His oath, His covenant and all He wants you to follow Him and be a relationship with Him.

I mean do you even understand just what love means to the creator of that very scary, dangerous and ever giving feeling concept and word?

Love is a whole other story, I believe in love, not my generation's version but the real stuff. With us becoming more materialistic relationships have become less about love and more about the value exchanges. The general idea now is "what material or ego-fuelling thing can I get from this person" sadly it's just not enough just to be you, you have to have a car, a bank account that rivals Bill Gates, giant assets, and looks of a model. I can see the value in wanting to be taken care of or having a partner that fuels your ego. There are reasons why we're so unhappy right now and they include all these things we desire from people. We don't want to explore people, build chemistry and genuinely come together and share happiness, most people just fall for what the other has and what they can do for you

That speaks to a concept that has been swirling around in my head for a minute and that is from a young age we all go through hurtful situations that leave holes in our souls and we are constantly trying to fill them up using other people. It's like people are a glass half full and every relationship is a chance to take the other person's water and fill yourself up.

We should rise above this, I think love is more beautiful when both of you have worked on yourselves and filled up your holes. Being at a point in life where you've found happiness on your own and you want to share it as opposed to finding happiness in another person. I dream of love like that, not being influenced by media and movies and having unrealistic expectations of someone but genuinely seeing people for who they are, loving and accepting them for that, and growing together" Hes said

"I think that love is a beautiful thing and there are #2 types of love which are very different from one another, there is falling in love which I personally think is much sweeter, and the reason for this is because it's not in your control, you are not thinking about your next move you are completely taken by your emotions which is something that is very scary BUT pretty sweet if it's real. Loving someone means showing effort and that effect is unconditional it's giving without expecting anything back. If you think about it's what God did with all of us. He loved unconditionally and GAVE His son" He answered

"For GOD so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV)

"I don't believe in the "THE ONE" I believe that there are a couple of people who are well-suited for you. We all have a type and combined with love it allows us to be blind to the lover's imperfections or wrongdoings in the relationship.

Loving someone, anyone is a big risk and there really is no theory as to how to go about loving or loving someone. I think what's most important is considering other person's feelings. Love is everywhere at times it can even occur spontaneously BUT one's things is for sure, love is strategic in today's age and whatever you do, you gotta sacrifice" He explained.

You see God love can't be understood or wrapped, boxed, amounted, bought or even explained. He's love is so big and vast that celebrating Him once a year on the 14th or every Sunday or even ever Easter and Christmas is JUST NOT ENOUGH!! You don't understand how much He love you although at times it's not reciprocated or shared or even praised HE LOVES YOU. It's not a strategic move, it's not because He got holes that he needs to fill because of heartbreak it's because HE LOVES YOU and He wants you to understand that just because the World is moving towards a materialistic and self interested, over sharing world doesn't mean He is, He's not about that life. His Word stands strong and all throughout the Word He contently shows His love. Not on a specific day or because it's a leap year BUT because GOD LOVES YOU and if you get anything out of this, know that the LORD GOD, ALMIGHTY LOVES YOU.

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:37-39 NIV)

Nothing can separate you from His LOVE and He doesn't show it on a specific worldly event or once a year BUT every day and everywhere. So don't only see the love on the 14th BUT on a daily because God's love contently shows its light.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the guys who helped me put this together. I'm truly grateful. Thank you once again.





DON'T DOUBT YOUR VALUE, DON'T RUN
FROM WHO YOU ARE" - CS LEWIS

The Villainization of Femininity in Pop Culture

BY: RAFFY



Feminism and femininity are two concepts that have always been at war within me. I have always been a hyper-feminine girl's girl and that includes being a champion for women's rights too. In today's world of GRWM (Get Ready With Me) videos on YouTube and the popularity of hypergamous feminine social media content it would seem so unlikely that it was ever unpopular to rest in your femininity. However, I digress. Let me take you back to the early 2000's as a little girl who never wanted to play in the mud or do sports. I have always been an extremely feminine girl- to my core. To a point where I even got called names. At my predominantly coloured primary school I was regularly called 'sturdy'- mind you I was the only black girl at that school for a long time so you can imagine how alienated I felt and on top of that when I would visit my family in Zimbabwe, my cousins would call me a 'salala'.

Both terms insinuated that I behaved differently and that I was an outsider, definitely not the kind of thing a child wants to experience. At first, I did not understand what these terms meant but I very quickly learned what the basic definition came down to. And that was that people believed that I thought too highly of myself and that I was better than them. Very much a one sided belief I can assure you, if anything I usually felt I was a loner. You see in a world where the 'effortless' beauties of fuss-free starlets like Jessica Alba and Megan Fox reign, where does a non-conventionally attractive black girl with ethnic features fit in? From a young age I knew that fairer skinned women were always celebrated for their God-given features and that I would never fit into the beauty standard of that time- so I decided to be as sturdy as I wanted to be because I was never going to win anyone's approval anyway. Looking back, I think those children and even some adults who had a lot to say about me were actually just projecting their own feelings of inadequacy on me. How dare I spend time on my looks? Where does her confidence come from? What is she going to do with that confidence? There truly is a fear associated with girls and women, specifically African ones who decide that they are beautiful and worthy of self-care too. I never at all anticipated that black would ever be beautiful or to see a movement where women were embracing the concept of staying in their feminine.

The Basics

Femininity is defined as qualities and attributes that are regarded as 'womanly'. Masculinity is therefore defined as the qualities and attributes that society sees as 'manly'.

The gag is that all people possess masculine and feminine qualities so while we scramble to put people in boxes God shows us just how beautiful and complex our diversities are. In essence, we all require a perfect balance of these traits in order to be holistic beings. Traits such as servitude, humility, kindness, and vulnerability are considered to be feminine- notice how these traits are literally the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Whereas strength, independence, and confidence are considered to be masculine traits.

In our modern-day patriarchal society, women who are highly feminine in their appearance yet are as confident, disciplined, and competitive as men are seen as a threat to the order. Don't believe me? Look at the way pop culture has demonized the girly, the pink, and the unapologetically feminine.

Pink Evil

At some point, when feminism became profitable through movies, music, and books, the 'fem' in feminism was eradicated. Movies that come to mind include almost every high school movie's antagonist a girly teenage girl with perfect hair, impeccable makeup, and a pink outfit. Whereas the protagonist would be some plain jane who could hang with the boys, fix a car, and look flawless while at it of course- no effort necessary.

I call this phenomenon 'pink evil', where feminine items, colours, and hobbies became associated with being a mean girl- excuse the pun. These mean girls ruled their possessions with a level of manipulation and authority that any dictator would put their stamp of approval on.

Manifestation in Media and Real Life

Examples of positive femininity in pop culture were far and wide in between. The 'Legally Blonde' movies definitely come to mind. Here was a young woman concerned about her studies, career, and looks? And achieving in all spheres? Unheard of in pop culture but prevalent in real life. Almost every Miss South Africa in the past ten years has been a medical doctor- proving that looks and books do mix. Proving that maybe, just maybe this 'pink evil' only resided in the movies.

Continued...

Femininity's Place in the Bible

So where does this battle of femininity leave us? Christian women, women of God?

While different denominations preach differently, I look to the Word of God to guide me. Firstly, I believe that God made us whole, perfectly in His image (Genesis 1:27). The gender battle and gender expectations placed on us have put unnecessary pressure on children and adults for too long. We are more complex than that. If Esther did not commit to her extensive beauty routines (Esther 2:12) then maybe she would not have become a queen and save her people from persecution. Her strength and courage involved neither sword or violence on her part. Throughout the Book of Esther, she relied on her feminine powers- note how I said feminine powers and not traits. That is because I truly believe as women, our power lies in our femininity. Esther focused on what she could control. She fasted, prayed, and looked good while she was at it. Ruth knew that the only way she was going to survive was to marry one of her husband's relatives so she went and laid by Boaz's feet as a way to propose marriage to him.

Women are so strong, not strong like men but strong in a way that only women can be. Despite all the waves of feminism that have occurred, we are still fighting this patriarchal system. A system that hurts women and men- alas the way it affects men is a topic for another day.

Stronger together than apart, we need to remember that our diverse behaviours and beliefs are where our strength lies. Women who exercise leadership and discipline and those who are kind and gentle can happily coexist and support one another.

All I ask is that regardless of how feminine or masculine you happen to be, you become empathetic and compassionate for one another.

How you present yourself to the world is ultimately up to you. However, when it comes to your inner being, I leave you with this:

**"By the grace of God, I am what I am."
-1 Corinthians 15:10**





"I AM A MOTHER TO AMAZING BOYS.
THEY ARE MY PRIDE AND JOY"

Is there NEW in marriage?

BY: ANNOYMOUS

Is there a new in marriage? Of course yes! There's a new in everything and we are reminded of this in ***Isaiah 43:18-19 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!"***

But let's be honest, this is easier said than done. To just forgive and move on is one of the hardest things most people suffer from and I think I am number one on the list I am certainly not proud of that because you build nothing by keeping grudges.

In all honesty and teachings, no one is perfect and it gets even more challenging when two must become one. Now that's two different opinions, background, characters having to work together for the better. Sometimes you see things the same and sometimes you don't. Sometimes we hurt each other unintentionally And that leaves a mark on your partner, often when we feel hurt we are quick to ask if your partner loves you or not and truths is they do but they made a mistake at that particular time. And oh let me be honest again, these happen often so a heart of forgiving is the one that keeps marriages going really. Holding grudges eats you up and makes you have expectations that only you know about but yet you expect them from your partner, and most of the time your partner is living their life not aware of how deep that particular issue cuts you. A friend of mine got angry at her man for always coming home late on Fridays, she did not express her anger vocally but rather with being quiet and not participating in weekend activities, this went on for a while and the man just thought her wife is moody on weekends until she took the decision to voice what's wrong because being angry put so much weight on her and only she was limiting her happiness.

You can imagine you can't move forward or build anything with love when it was not done with a pure heart. Ephesians 5:33

"If your marriage is filled with conflict, don't give up." This scripture instructs a husband to love his wife as he loves himself and that his wife must respect him. If your marriage is filled with conflict, don't give up. Now don't get me wrong and sit through all types of abuses for the sake of not giving up. If your relationship or marriage does not serve you or bring you peace then you are welcome to make a decision that best suits you.

In closing "NEW" is a decision both individuals take every morning to be a better person to themselves and to their partners. And that's how marriages survive by putting in the work and love every single day, every single hour, every single minute.

My daily scripture and prayer in my marriage have to be: Colossians 3:13-14 "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." Forgiveness is a necessary component of a happy marriage.





"FEMININE FLARE, WHICH LEANED
TOWARDS CLASSY CHIC."
