

WHY YOU MARRY WRONG

30 Reasons that Lead People Into Wrong Marriages



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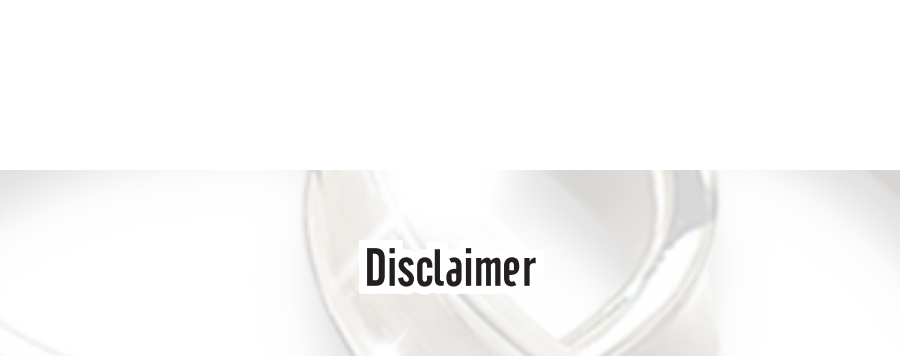
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*This book is dedicated to everyone desiring to
have a fulfilling relationship and marriage -
you don't have to suffer in the wrong marriage.*



Disclaimer

This publication is as a result of research conducted from a scope of 500 individuals who are or have been in relationships that have worked or failed. Sharing the mistakes they made, lessons learnt and offering their guidance and insights to those who are intentional about marriage and desire to have a fulfilling, happy marriage.

The names used in this book do not in any way represent actual names. Any resemblance to the actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

The essence of this book is to provoke the readers to interrogate pertinent issues before committing to a marriage. The author specifically disclaims any liability that is incurred from the use or application of the contents in this book. He recommends that those in a relationship, whether marital, or family, should seek the services of a family and marriage therapist to enhance their bonds. Furthermore, those contemplating divorce, or separation, should consider doing the same



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Table of Contents

Dedication	i
Disclaimer	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Prologue	1
30 Reasons that Lead People Into Wrong Marriages	5
Epilogue	87
References	89
Other books by the author	90



Prologue

A good marriage can be a blessing for many years to come, equally a bad marriage can destroy a couple and their kids, for years to come. Darrell Andrews states that marriage is the most important relationship in a family. Unfortunately, people often marry for the wrong reasons, hence find themselves in difficulties they never anticipated in the first place. One of the biggest causes of a bad marriage is having unrealistic expectations of one's spouse. Some people create an image of the perfect spouse in their minds and when their spouse does not fit into that picture or meet their expectations, they begin to see this person in a negative light. In such negativity, their communication towards their spouse becomes a pattern that brings destruction to them and unfortunately, their kids are not spared.

Definitely, this brings a lot of questions to my mind: Why do people marry? Why are many marriages on a cliff and at the verge of breaking? What foundations do people lay down in preparation for the marriage life? What is the role of parenting

in raising children who have emotional stability, which impacts on their ability to create successful marriages in the future? Do we have couples who are role models for the young adults intending to get into marriage? Has the church done it right in preparing singles for dating? What is the significance of marital counselling to young adults who are intending to get married?

People prepare for an interview, exams, and a journey, but rarely do they prepare for marriage. The purpose of this book, is to raise such pertinent and thought-provoking questions and consequently provide an active intervention for those preparing to join the institution of marriage. Failing to address these issues and many others affecting marriages, is what leads to unprecedented crises in relationships or marriage and subsequently causes unsurmountable physical pains and emotional distress – such marriages hurt.

"Marriage is not for everybody," says Pastor Rick Netshiozwi, "telling you that today many people think marriage is for everybody, but it's not for everybody. Many people are so self-involved, and people who are self-involved cannot live a life where they have a spouse. They are so concentrated on themselves, that when they get married, whether it's by pressure or by force, you realize by a matter of

time that the spouse is suffering because they are too self-involved, selfish in other words. They can't raise kids; they can't do anything like that, whether be it a man or a woman. That thing has caused so many divorces because people don't want to come to terms with the truth of the fact that some people are too self-involved, and they become heartless in marriage when things need to get resolved. You can't marry a person like that, just rather stay single so that the other spouse can move on with their lives."

Marryann Kibuchi, a psychologist, emphasizes that people end up marrying the wrong person because of society's pressure to settle down, fear of ending up alone and settling down for less because one may feel they are not worthy to get married to a person who is good for them. There is also the pain of ignorance, people end up not knowing what marriage is all about and end signing up to something they have no clue whatsoever about. There is a lack of intentionality in choosing a spouse and a life mate, as well as a lack of true role model couples.

Also, there is the issue of settling down before having a sense of self, and so, one ends up conforming to the image of what their partner or spouse would want and not who they really are. That causes friction later on in their marriage and lots of frustration.

The consequences of such a marriage are that the couple is not genuinely happy with each other, and they end up tolerating each other, instead of loving each other and unfortunately, their children suffer in the turmoil. So the children grow up in an environment that is not optimal or lacks genuine love and eventually, they end up picking negative ideas about what marriage is all about. That creates a cycle that keeps on repeating itself in the society where people are stuck in unhappy marriages, and they carry a misconception that marriage does not work or marriage is a scam – that is the reason we have many unhappy marriages in the society today.

I have good news for you – there is hope for your marriage – things can change for good. But for that change to happen, a couple needs to be intentional by learning how to break the negative cycles and how to love each other genuinely. As people always say, prevention is better than cure; likewise both single people and even those in marriage, need to be intentional right now, on what they would like their marriage to be, by intentionally working on their mentalities about marriage and also working towards gaining knowledge on how to relate with their partner or future spouse.

Reason 1 | Why Am I Marrying?

Are you able to answer this question clearly without being influenced by external factors? Many young people today do not know what marriage is all about and, regrettably, they finally end up signing to something they have no clue about whatsoever. Without precise and concrete reasons, guided by intentionality, awareness and maturity, don't marry. Otherwise, you will hurt badly.

WHAT IS LOVE?

"Being in love is not an adequate foundation for building a successful marriage." — **Gary D. Chapman**

In his book, *Love and Thorns*, Joel Gitau quotes, "*Maybe love is when someone arouses your heart in a way that no else did before. Maybe love is the ability to connect to the good pieces of yourself, the ones that are not so visible. Maybe love is your recognition and the amazement in being surprised with how much care you can give. Maybe love is saying you are strong, even when all you feel is weakness. Maybe love is shouting that you are rich even when the bank account says otherwise. To*

really love another is to relate all the goodness in you. To love and to cherish is the greatest gift God gave to mankind."

HOW DO I TELL AM IN LOVE AND NOT LUST?

Johann Christoph Arnold, in his book, *Sex, God & Marriage*, states, "Everywhere today, people are searching for lasting and meaningful relationships. The myth of romance continues to be taken for granted by millions, and a new generation of young men and women has accepted the belief that sexual freedom is the key to fulfilment. But as desperately as people want to believe in the sexual revolution of the last few decades, it is clear to many of them that something has gone terribly wrong. Instead of bringing freedom, the sexual revolution has left countless wounded and isolated souls. As we face the great anguish around us, it is more important than ever for all of us, young and old, to consider the direction of our lives and ask ourselves where we are headed." Marriage has little to do with emotions and love but everything to do with intentionality, maturity, and commitment to one another. Consequently, you can live with a partner in sickness and in good health, in lack and in abundance, in love and in the absence of love, in a perfect body and in a changed body until death do you apart.

ROMEO AND JULIET KIND OF LOVE

My dear, my sweetheart, I deeply love you very much from the bottom of my heart. Darling, I thank God that He brought us together and our paths crossed. I truly love you with great and immeasurable love. You are special, unique, one in a million. You are worth more than gold and silver, you are worth everything. I treasure you very much, and I am proud of you in a great way. You are amazing, and exceptional. You are a great person; you are my best friend, and you are worth more than expensive pearls. In the dark skies, you are the star that illuminates my life. You are the cloud that protects me from the sunshine of this life. You mean so much to me, I thank God I met you.

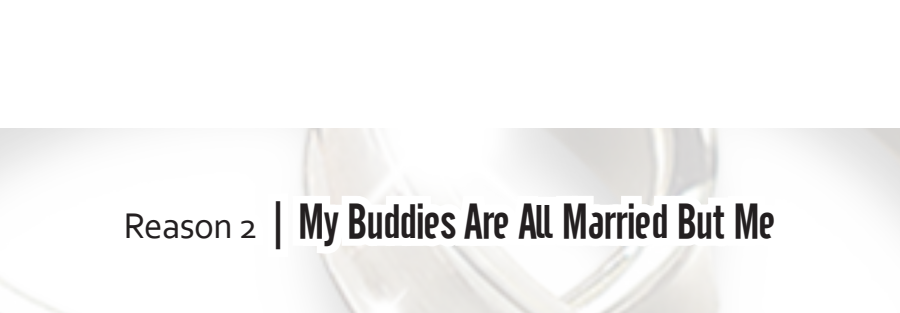
You are a big support system, a confidant, a strong pillar. I mean, you are more than I could have bargained for, a complete package of blessing! I am for sure indebted a lot to you. I wish you the best in life. You are the only sand in my seashore, the only bean in my maize meal. Darling, soft, and beautiful as rose petals, your love fills my life with joy! I love you; I treasure and cherish every moment with you. I long to be closer even the more to you. You are wonderful, incomparable, strong-willed, incredibly full of agility. Kind-heart and thoughtful partner.

You will always remain to be my greatest

achievement in life. Every moment I have spent with you has been nothing short of exceptional. I look forward to spending many more years with you, my dear. You are special to me, one in a million. Darling, you never cease to amaze me. Thank you for who you are and all that you do. There is no one else I would rather spend the rest of my life with other than you. Thanks for being such a loving, caring and thoughtful person. You make me feel valued and appreciated. With you on my side, no mountain will be too difficult for me to climb, no valley will be too low for me to go through. With you, I will be unstoppable and will conquer the world for sure. My strong passions and emotions are for you only. You always set me a blaze by the fire of your hot romance and highly combustible passions. Your touch makes me land in the third heaven. Let me get hold of you and let us cruise together to our destiny in God. I promise you that you have my backing in everything, come rain or sunshine. I pray that Numbers 6:24-26 will be realized for you, "The lord bless you and keep you, the lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you, the lord turn his face towards you and give you peace." I pray that God will bind us together with three cords of love that cannot be broken now and forever more! Amen"

After exchanging these great vows on the altar, the couple flew for honeymoon but the unexpected

happened. The couple parted ways before the honeymoon was over. The marriage was over before it even started.



Reason 2 | **My Buddies Are All Married But Me**

Many people are making the grievous mistake of getting into a marriage because they suffer from a deadly disease I call FOMO (the fear of missing out). They rush into marriage blindly just because their friends have married, and they feel like the odd ones out. Marriage is not a game of chess, where you can quit whenever you want – it is a lifetime commitment. You will either suffer and hurt in a wrong marriage or nurse the wounds of a messy separation. Therefore, marry because you are ready, since you will be the one on the receiving end, if things go south.



Reason 3 | **Insatiable Appetite for Status**

Kim was having a conversation with his dear wife about an issue that was really bothering him. He wanted to buy a piece of land and build a house for his family, but he didn't know how to go about it, since his business was only able to meet their basic needs – nothing would be left to save for the project. Upon discussing with his wife Wacera, she told him she will visit her bank and see if she could take a loan on his behalf. Later that day, she came back with a good report that she could take 500,000 Kenya Shillings, but the bank had requested for security. Buzzing with excitement, Kim gave his car logbook as security against the loan. Wacera took the logbook and came back with the cash. Kim was over the moon – he now had a piece of land where he could build his family home. He put his nose to the grindstone and after the agreed payment period, he was able to service the loan and got his logbook back.

He went back to the wife with another suggestion to borrow another 500,000 Kenya Shillings, for him to build a house for them on the same piece of land. Just as she had done previously, his faithful

wife took the logbook and came back with the amount. Kim started servicing the loan, but along the way, the Covid-19 pandemic struck; he was down on his luck. Kim was late with repayments for the loan. Wacera informed him that the bank was on her neck because of the loan, and they were threatening to auction their car. Another month passed without remitting the monthly instalment to the bank and this time, the wife came with suspicious, hideous men who claimed to be representatives of the bank and took the car which was sold to recover the outstanding balance. Kim, on the other hand, had already built the house and his family had already moved in, although they didn't have a family car any more. Kim consoled himself that though he had lost his car, he had a family home and so, all was not lost.

A short while later, Kim was shocked, when he came to learn that his wife, Wacera, was having an affair with the area M.P (Member of Parliament) and the money she purported to have borrowed from the bank for him to buy a plot and build came from the M.P as 'a token of appreciation for a job well done' to his wife. He was shocked and tongue-tied by the discovery. To add salt to the injury, he also discovered that the logbook had been taken to her mother and not to the bank as alleged. In other words, his car was sold by his wife to regain

her money back when she realized that he was running late in repaying of 'the loan' as it were. He was dumbfounded by this level of betrayal. Something like a hand grenade exploded in his head, and he felt like smoke coming off his ears. What would you have done if you were Kim?



Reason 4 | Age is Catching Up With Me

A celebrated, flamboyant, Kenyan politician and the first Kenyan Attorney General, married at the age of 52 years. At the time of his death, at the age of 101, he was a father of three children and a grandfather. This is an authentic case scenario that you should marry at your own time, with a better reason, rather than marrying under pressure because of age. It's better to marry late than to marry wrong.

Reason 5 | **Parents or Society Expectations and Peer Pressure**

Bernila is married to Drake, but she is very unhappy. Drake used to drink heavily before they met. Although he no longer drinks, he is 'an underperformer.' She hates her husband with a passion because he doesn't satisfy her. She never enjoys 'bedminton' with him. Further, the husband never prepares her before intimacy; when he comes to bed he pounces on her like a horse – sex is always painful, distasteful and pathetic. Whenever she resists, Drake forces himself on her, and this has happened like three times in the recent past. Furthermore, Drake is so disrespectful of her that he demands that she sends him payment details whenever she is in the market shopping – he doesn't trust her with his money like you wouldn't trust a child with your good car on the highway. She feels like the reason he treats her like trash is because she doesn't contribute anything in the house because she doesn't have a stable job. Bernila is full of regrets for falling to the pressure to get married from her parents and friends. If she knew this is what she was signing up to, she would have preferred to remain single to empower

herself first. Every day she contemplates leaving him, but she always holds back because of their four children (two of whom she came with into this marriage). She wonders where she will take them and how she would even provide for them on her own. She is hopeless and helpless. She cries herself into oblivion every night.

Reason 6 | Unquenchable Thirst for Sex

In my book, *Sex & Teenagers*, I share the story of Samson, a young man chosen by God to be His servant and his purpose so clear from the beginning – to fight for and protect his nation. However, it happened like a dream and when the dream faded away, the reality dawned on him – he had lost his eyes because he could not control his erection. Samson was a powerful warrior who defended his people from their enemies, and he was never defeated in any battle. He was a young man who was a role model in his generation and loved by everyone, especially girls for his attractiveness because he was tall, handsome, and masculine.

Unfortunately, this was short-lived when he happened to get attracted to a '*chic*' (girl) called Delilah, who was a diva, an angel, a star in the galaxy who charmed Samson out of his senses. Samson could go out of his way just to make Delilah happy, and he could tell she appreciated his good deeds because in return, Samson received lots of hugs, kisses and above that, her touch would blow his temperatures out of proportion.

Samson was crazily in love with Delilah, and they could go for walks, talk about almost everything and kiss like they would never kiss again. Slowly by slowly, Samson started getting curious about how it would feel to make love to Delilah. He wanted to make love to his *chic*, to make her moan, and scream his name: Samson! Samson tried to get her to his room, but though he thought it would be easy, it turned out to be quite challenging. Delilah was a cunning lady, who on a mission to destroy the destiny of this 'hot' guy. Delilah was a trickster, and she knew all the tricks she could use in her trade. She knew that when a boy shows you insurmountable care and affection, he definitely has a trick up his sleeve – he is not only after your heart but also something extra.

Delilah had read Samson like a book, from cover to cover, and mastered his weaknesses, and whenever he tried to make love to her, his efforts proved futile. As the saying goes, patience surely pays. Samson continued to pursue Delilah day in, day out. Samson started treating her like a queen, taking her out to the jungle for nature walk, he could walk her home and some other times give her surprise visits at night just to wish her a good night and Delilah seemed to fall to his trap, or so he thought!

Finally, Delilah agreed to meet Samson in her house instead of his house. It was on a 'Saturday

afternoon' and the previous night, he could not sleep a wink, contemplating and fantasizing on how things would unfold. On the material day, Delilah dressed to kill and prepared her room. She used some air fresheners to make her room smell nice, sprinkled the bed with rose petals and on the table, she placed two glasses and a bottle of champagne. Everything was in order and all that was left, was the grand entry of the one and only Samson.

On the way, Samson would talk to himself how this was going to be the day to remember because he had waited for so long for the day when he would 'taste' the treasure Delilah had held so dearly – she was soon going to be his for the taking. "I will make her feel as if she had grown wings and was flying. For sure, she will get a taste of heaven from me," he thought to himself.

SAMSON'S' DATE WITH DEATH

Finally, when he arrived, Delilah opened the door for him, he was so surprised and words literary escaped him for a moment. He stood rooted at the door, looking at the dazzling room. It was spotless, and the scent was as refreshing as she was. She had turned on some soft soothing music. Samson walked in and greeted her with a hug and, as if challenging him, she requested him to seat on the

bed. He didn't know why she had requested him to seat on the bed instead of offering the sofa, but it was clear that she knew what had brought Samson to her house. Delilah popped the bottle and poured him a glass of champagne. Before he knew it, Delilah was seated next to him on the bed. Slowly, Samson started to caress her and smother her with kisses, but Delilah pushed him away. Thinking that she was just playing hard to get, he started to caress her again, but Delilah could not allow him.

Delilah rose from the bed and walked to the window, demanding to know the secret of Samson's strength and why no one could ever defeat him in battle. Looking at Delilah, her eyes, her figure, Samson was on fire, and he had even stopped thinking straight. All he wanted was to have sex with this beautiful girl standing next to him. He allowed his erection to control him instead of his head and as a result, he revealed his secret to Delilah, who had been paid by Samson's enemies to trick him to reveal his secret to her. When Samson fell asleep from the drink he had been served by her, Delilah shaved his hair and called his enemies who came hastily, carried him away, gouged his eyes and eventually Samson was left for dead. Samson died a painful death because he allowed his erection to control him.

Not long ago, news hit our local television stations that a man had mutilated his wife's arms out of family wrangles. What we were never told is whether this woman had seen this coming. Was she threatened by the husband before this incident? Had she ignored some serious red flags? You will be surprised that the man had threatened her many times, but the wife thought he was just joking and couldn't be harmed by her husband of many years.

Reason 7 | **Am Pregnant! What Shall We Do?**

Gesimba was 'smashing' his high school crush with passion. It was all hot and messy in bed for these two love birds. They were so much immersed into their steamy affair that they didn't take an iota of care. After 6 months of setting each other on fire of hot romance and highly combustible passion, the lady was pregnant. None of them saw this coming; it came to them as a 'surprise'. The lady said, "Am pregnant, what shall we do?" Gesimba suggested that she moves in with him. He could not withstand seeing his child suffer in this cruel world without his protection. They hurriedly settled together in a 'come we stay' arrangement, had a child, and life was lovely for the new parents in town.

After 2 years, the unexpected happened. The young couple was running a small printing shop in a nearby town and the business was steadily picking momentum. Gesimba could rush to Nairobi to pick merchandise to restock. While away, a '*mbaba*' (an older married man) who operated a supermarket opposite their printing shop could occasionally come over, in the name of getting printing services. Unbeknownst to her, the man was acting like that

person who throws maize grains to a chicken with the intention of catching it for slaughter. Before long, the lady had been swept off her feet by the *mbaba*. She left the husband and a four-year-old son and got married to the rich supermarket owner. Gesimba's world was blown apart, *aliachwa kwa mataa* (dumped)!

Reason 8 | **She /He Is Born Again, Prays Loudest, I Think Will Make a Good Partner**

The story of Pastor Joan Wairimu a celebrated Kenyan Gospel Musician whose songs blessed so many souls is a sad narration. She shared on YouTube how, she suffered 20 years of painful marriage under her ex-husband, a bishop. Her husband was brutal, and she had endured years of battering and death threats. She went through the physical, emotional and psychological torture and trauma that she couldn't wish even her worst enemy. She narrated how her husband was cheating with ladies in church, impregnated their house girl while she was also pregnant with their last born daughter. She remained in their marriage for the sake of all the people who knew her as a role model, especially the congregation. She would smile and pretend that all was well, but she was hurting. She advises married ladies who are going through abusive marriages, not to die in there, in the name of protecting their image in the public. She finally decided to call it quits after realizing that her husband would never change, and she was going to die if she continued. Her story clearly demonstrates that not everything that glitters is gold, my sister and brother.

Pastor Joan's story is not isolated, we have many other similar cases where one believed *ameangukia mchungaji kumbe anaangukiwa na masaibu* (they were lucky to marry a man of God only to suffer a great deal). Another similar case is that of Betty Bayo and her ex-husband, a renowned Bishop. Her story is also available on YouTube. There is still another case of a renowned gospel music singer, Eunice Njeri and her ex-husband a Gospel musician whose marriage only lasted for 24 hours. Marrying in the church is not a guarantee for a happy and fulfilling marriage!

Reason 9 | Am Lonely And I Need Company

Contentment with being alone involves learning how to be fulfilled in your singleness. A truly single person is one who is complete physically, emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually without dependence on anyone else. Successful singles find their personal identity and sense of wholeness within themselves and in their relationship with God, because they are complete within themselves – only whole individuals are fully comfortable being alone. Such people can thrive and prosper whether or not they are involved in a relationship. For such people, a relationship is just an added blessing or the icing on the cake – **Dr. Myles Munroe**

Paul had just relocated to Nairobi to look for greener pastures after completing his education. He looked into the future with lenses of optimism. From the onset, he was faced with a harsh and sad reality that people in the big city only minded their own business; that is how he found himself very lonely. He was also an orphan and the only child of his late mother, and this made it lonelier – he felt like he was cut off from the world. Many nights he felt alone on the planet and wished he could have

someone to lean on. After sometime, he secured a job and money was coming in thick and fast, but a vacuum still existed in his life.

On one fateful day, he came across a luscious looking girl; her beauty was breathtaking. Her conical-shaped breasts revealed her innocence. Surprisingly, she looked familiar. He realized that Cindy was a childhood friend from his neighbourhood back in the village. They exchanged contacts, and immediately he became so obsessed with this lady and whenever a day ended without chatting, he felt sick. Paul learnt that Cindy was not in good terms with her father and she was planning on running away from home to find a job and live her life. Concern jangled in him and so, he offered to host her for sometime in the fear that if he didn't become her saviour and acted quickly, another man would do so and that meant he could lose her forever. Cindy moved in with him, and He was very happy to have a companion at home, whom he could go home to after work. This was everything he ever desired in life; to have someone he could call family. It was like what he was looking for, came on a silver platter. Which man would not feast on a ready meal when yawning with pangs of hunger?

Within a short period, Cindy was pregnant and Paul was ecstatic that he would get a child who

would call him dad. After nine months, they received a bouncing baby girl, who he named after his late mother. His life had found a meaning, and he was determined to do everything to ensure that his family was well provided and cared for. When the baby was about one year, he started getting rumours that his wife was seeing another man, but he gave it a deaf ear – he treated the hitherto malicious rumour with the contempt it deserved.

One day, while home alone, Paul decided to do general cleaning. As he was doing so, he stumbled upon a well wrapped polythene bag under their bed. Upon opening it, he found four brand-new dresses that could fit his wife – his knees felt weak. That evening, he confronted Cindy, only to learn that the dresses were a gift to her as a token of appreciation from a man for the 'good services she had offered.' Upon checking her phone, he found out that she had told the guy she was cheating with, that she was single and staying with her brother for sometime before she could shift and stay on her own – his heart dropped.

Reason 10 | **Getting Married Because of Fame**

A Kenyan celebrity and a renowned media personality did a very elegant and glorious wedding, but unfortunately, it only lasted for 6 months. In an interview, the lady said that she was equally surprised by how fast their marriage collapsed. She further said, and I quote, "I'm still trying to comprehend how it all happened. We were together for four years before getting married, but after six months, everything fell apart. She, however, acknowledged that sometimes things are simply not meant to be and attempting to force a failing relationship can't work.

A veteran gospel singer and MTV Africa music awardee regrets getting married late and before Fame. He said in an interview on YouTube and I quote, "I got married very late. I wish I got married before fame. So that I could grow into fame together with my kids, so that when all these things are happening, you are just on a different level. But now, getting married at the peak of your career is a different story." His troubled marriage affected his career in a big way, to a point of falling into depression.

Some Members of parliament have gotten married just to secure an elective seat because they feared that the electorate would not vote for them if they noticed that they were single. The purpose of their marriage is not intentional, rather circumstantial, and most of them end up causing a lot of suffering to their unsuspecting partner.

Reason 11 | Assumption that Financial Investment In Someone Can Secure a Marriage

Luoch, a young, tall, dark and handsome man meets Dinda, an elegant lady in the streets of Nairobi. During their first date, he discovered that Dinda had dropped out of university in second year due to financial constraints. Their love blossomed like roses during autumn, and Dinda introduced Luoch to her parents. Being a successful entrepreneur, he offered to pay university fees for Dinda, his new-found love, to enable her to complete her university course. He was waiting eagerly for her love to graduate before they could marry and live happily thereafter. Unfortunately, there was a sad turn of event because Dinda broke up with him after graduating from the university. She claimed that she didn't love him and wanted to be with another man she deeply loved. The wall of his future with her was painted with ghastly images that screamed in his mind. This was his reward after snatching her out of the jaws of poverty.

Reason 12 | Escaping Challenges/Poverty At Home

Melisa cleared high school, but her parents could not afford to pay her college fees. She was advised to repeat and pick momentum in Form 3 with the hope that she would perform better to secure a scholarship for higher education after sitting for her KCSE examination. While she was in form four after repeating, the situation got so dire that she was forced to drop out of school all together, as her single mother could no longer afford to pay her school fees. She felt bare and hopeless and as sure as day follows the night, her hope was still hopeful, but it was anchored by a thread.

After six months of staying at home idle, Melisa approached her friend who operated a Mpesa shop and requested to stand in for her whenever she was busy. She was given a chance and the experience was good, as she no longer stayed at home doing nothing and at the same time, she could get some pocket money.

One day, a man in his 50s came to the Mpesa shop to make a deposit. The man had a bunch of money and after being served he gave her an envelope to

keep, appreciated her and he left. That evening the lady opened the enveloped and, to her surprise, it had ten thousand shillings in it and a contact. The lady made the symbol of the cross, thanking God for the manna from heaven.

Many months later, in the dead of the night, she was laying on her bed sobbing, asking God to intervene because the Mpesa shop that used to keep her engaged had been closed. Moreover, she was not in good terms with her mother. She also needed to go to college for a short course which could help her secure a decent job. At that point, the old man, the ten thousand and the contact came to mind. She quickly looked for the contact and called the man, who in turn requested for a meeting with her over coffee, so as they get to know each other.

When they met, the man was touched by her story and offered to pay for the short course of her choice. She decided to start with computer packages, since many institutions required one to be computer-literate. She found a college and sent the fees structure for the course to him. There was, however, a challenge because she needed accommodation and money for upkeep since the college was far from home. When the man got to know of her predicament, he offered to pay the fee for the entire course, accommodation at a hostel

and also gave her upkeep for the entire period – she couldn't believe it. The man was like the Good Samaritan she had read about in the Bible.

She took her course and completed without ever seeing the man again. They however communicated once in a while, when called to check on her progress. Upon completing the course, she met him so that he could get an update about the course. She informed him of her desire to pursue a course in customer care in the future, but the man offered to pay for her immediately if she found a good college. When she did, the stranger paid all the fees for the first year and even took care of her accommodation for a whole year and monthly upkeep of fifteen thousand Kenya shillings. As he had done previously, he continued to check on her to know how she was doing.

When she was done with her first year, she informed him so that he could pay the fees for the remaining year. He agreed to meet her, but this time the man requested that they meet in a private place away from the public, where they could have a good time together. The lady declined, citing that she had a boyfriend, and she didn't want to betray him. The man calmly told her to go to her boyfriend to clear the fees for the remaining year.

The lady couldn't report back to college for the second year because she didn't have money for

school fees and accommodation. She moved in with her boyfriend, who was a *makanga* (tout) and within no time she was pregnant. When she delivered, the boyfriend abandoned her and relocated to another town, leaving her stranded in the hospital. Without knowing what to do or who to call, she had no choice but to call the old man to come to her rescue because she was stranded. He came and cleared the hospital bill, rented a fully furnished apartment, hired a house girl, did shopping for her and started sending monthly upkeep of twenty thousand Kenya shillings per month.

After six months, the man came to visit her and left quickly after delivering the shopping he had done for her and the kid. Again, after another six months, he came and had a meal and left shortly thereafter. All this time, he was still sending the twenty thousand monthly upkeep and also continued to send money whenever the lady requested without asking questions. Three months after his last visit, he came and requested to spend the night. The lady, after thinking through what this man had done for her, allowed him to spend the night, and they had a 'lovely night' if you know what that means.

Since that night, the man started visiting the lady once a month for sleepovers. Sometimes

she could fake sickness and the man could send whatever amount she asked. Other times, the man could visit, but the lady could pretend to be on her menses and the man could sleep peacefully beside her until morning, then he would leave in the morning. The man could show up once or twice a year, do his thing, then vanish. This continued for years until one day the lady realized that she was trapped in that relationship. She demanded to know who she was in his life, since she felt used and her emotions taken for granted. The man told her she was his fourth wife, and she should be contented with what she was being provided with; house rent, money for upkeep and his presence once a year.

One time, she calculated the amount of money she had received from this man since the first day they met, it was adding up to an excess of three million and the man was still paying rent, educating her daughter and sending upkeep. However, the relationship was draining her because the man was never available for her. When she couldn't take it any more, she threatened to leave the man, but he swore to kill her if she did something of that sort. What would be your advice to her?

Reason 13 | To Prove a Point After a Separation or a Divorce

Eunice left her husband of 5 years for alleged cheating and got married to a bubbling, well-off man. Her new husband was very romantic and caring – she felt she had made the right choice by leaving her previous marriage. However, her joy was short-lived. After three years, Raymond, his new partner, started drinking, sleeping out and became violent; he started mistreating and battering her. At one time, he strangled her and demanded that she scream so that neighbours could come to her rescue. Eunice could not scream because she needed to protect her reputation in the society; this made matters even worse because her husband continued strangling her and even threatened to kill her if she didn't scream. It took the intervention of their house help, who called the police, who came just in time before she could get killed.

Eunice was so 'determined' to save her marriage to the extent that after her husband was taken to custody, she went to plead with the authorities for his release. She claimed that she had forgiven him and was ready to endure physical and psychological

torture to protect her image and the 'welfare' of her teenage daughter. Psychologists call this 'intimate partner violence' where the abused partner lives in fear and belief that they are the cause of the abuse. Intimate partner violence can be sexual abuse, stalking, physical abuse or psychological aggression. The victim holds on believing that the abuser is powerful or knows everything and that one day they will change.

Despite that, Raymond did not stop battering, torturing and manipulating her. One day, Eunice received a call from her daughters' school. Her daughter had threatened to commit suicide if she did not abandon the union with Raymond. Because of the threat from her daughter, the sad reality of the deteriorating situation hit her like a thunderbolt. She was not going to lose her daughter because of an abusive man who was never going to change, so she left. "I had been married to a lunatic", she concluded after looking back a while later.

Reason 14 | **I Want Children, the Society Will Judge Me if I Don't Bring Forth Kids**

Kendi was married at the age of 27. In the first six years of her marriage, she had five miscarriages. She had almost lost hope of carrying any pregnancy to maturity. They waited for about three years and decided to try their luck once again, but when she miscarried twice, all hopes of ever giving birth went up in smoke. All this time, she endured a lot of pressure from her mother-in-law to bear her grandchildren. Moreover, she became a laughingstock in the neighbourhood and was often ridiculed by her peers. The couple had sought help from medical doctors to traditional doctors and any other place they could, because of desperation, but no help came forth.

After unsuccessful efforts to find a solution to their problem, they decided to visit a nutritionist after a recommendation from a couple who had a similar problem and had gotten help. True to their advice, Kendi conceived and gave birth to twins upon following the instruction they were given by the nutritionist. They were very happy and grateful that the shame they had experienced for over the

years was now a thing of the past. The twins grew fast, healthy and vibrant, and the future looked bright for them.

At the age of five years, the parents were eager to take them to school and couldn't wait to prepare them each morning and see them off to school. One Saturday afternoon, as Kendi was going to the market with their children, a speeding car hit them, and they died on the spot. The pain of losing the twins was unbearable, especially to their mother; her dream of raising children was cut short. To add salt to the injury, after the burial, the husband chased her away, claiming that she had been bewitched so that she could never bring up children.

Reason 15 | **Afraid To Raise Kid(S) Without A Father**

When Chepkoech realized she was pregnant and could not wait to break the good news to her boyfriend, Ben, whom she had dated for two years. Upon sharing the news with the boyfriend, he did not celebrate but seemed reluctant because he was not prepared to raise a kid at that particular moment. However, he didn't have a choice but to accept the news. He told her that he was not ready to settle down with her, but he would support them as much as he could. After a few months, the man went silent and all efforts to reach him failed, Chepkoech decided to accept that sad reality and wait for the baby to be born.

When she eventually gave birth, she decided to pursue Ben one more time so that they could reconcile and bring up their son together. Ben accepted to meet her when the boy was four years old and invited them to his house so that he could see his son. Chepkoech had high hopes that Ben was going to accept her son, and at least the boy would grow up with a father in his life. When they arrived at his house, he welcomed them warmly, and even served them a sumptuous meal he had

prepared for them. They had a good time together and everything seemed normal. In the evening, Ben requested Chepkoech to go to the market to get some few items for the baby as well other items for the house. She left the baby with the father and left for the market. Upon coming back, she found Ben seated on the sofa and enquired where the boy was. Ben told her that the boy was sleeping in the bedroom. She felt blood race in her veins but ignored her gut feelings and went ahead to prepare dinner for the family.

After preparing the dinner, she went to wake the baby so that she could feed him, but the baby was unresponsive. She rushed to the sitting room with the baby in shock and demanded to know what had happened to him while she was away in the market. "Maybe he is sick," the man responded. He requested her to carry the baby so that could take him to the hospital for a checkup. She kept calling his son, pleading with him to wake up, but the boy was not responding. She was in shock, confused and devastated by the state of her son.

On arriving at the hospital, Ben insisted on being left outside as Chepkoech and her son got inside to see the doctor. Upon examining the baby, the doctor confirmed that the baby had died. Chepkoech was in agony, she was screaming and shouting, "Why! Why! Why did you kill my

son?" Upon realizing what was happening inside the ward, Ben left hastily and went to the police station to report the matter. He lied that his son had died while at home out of pneumonia. Chepkoech could not believe that Ben could even worsen the matter by filing a false report at the police station. When the case was presented in court, it directed that a post-mortem should be conducted by two pathologists representing both sides. The pathologists produced differing reports concerning the cause of death of the child. One report suggested the boy had died out of suffocation caused by strangulation, while the other report suggested that the boy died out of fluids in the lungs caused by pneumonia.

The court upheld the report, which pointed to the cause of death as pneumonia, therefore exonerating Ben. The court battle continued for months and when she realised that there was no end in sight, she got tired of the back and forth and decided to bury her son. She prepared the authorizations like the burial permits, but on the day of the burial, she was denied access to the body. This was because there was a court order restraining her from burying her son until the new case filed by the father of her dead son was heard and determined. She emotionally became a shell of her former self. Her fear of raising a son without a father turned out to be a nightmare for her.

Reason 16 | Marriage Will Solve My Problems

"I had a relationship with a man when I was between 17 years and 18 years. During that time, used to mistake money for love, because the guy was working and constantly gave me loads of cash. He could spoil me with drinks and food. I thought I had found the love of my life, since back at home were a lot of challenges. I was born in a large family of 6 girls and 2 boys, so in total we are 8 children. I am the seventh born and before me are twins with who are 10 months older than me.

Am a very outspoken person, and sometimes I talk a lot or ask a lot of questions to understand things. Unfortunately, that did not go well for me and I ended up receiving unwarranted beatings from my parents as they thought I was rude. So when I got this man, I saw a bridge to save me from the beatings and poverty from my family. Just when I moved in with him at the age of 18 years, I realized I was pregnant and mark you, I didn't know anything about the guy – he was a total stranger. One day he went to visit his mum in the village, only to come back with two little boys aged 1 year and 2 years. He came up with a story that his sister

had passed away and that he had decided to adopt the kids.

I took the kids for a month, but after some time, he took all of us back to the village. By then, I was 3 months pregnant and taking care of 2 little boys. He abandoned us there and never came back for 4 months. He left us with no money, and he never sent us anything while he was away; it was very challenging since I couldn't work due to pregnancy complications. I learnt from our neighbours that the boys were his kids and he had chased away his wife and the daughter she already had when they got married and took the boys with him to Nairobi. This hit me like a thunderbolt. How did I find myself in this situation?

His mum was very good to me, and she supported me and the kids. I had made up my mind that I was not going to go back home pregnant, so I had no choice but to endure. I got so bitter and started planning an escape plan immediately after I deliver. Two months after my baby was born, he came for us all and took us to Ofafa Jericho, in Nairobi. We were staying in one tiny room the five of us, shared a single broken bed, I could hardly sleep. I spent most nights seated on a stone inside the house, since we had no seats; it was hell on earth.

I didn't have much of a choice but to endure the hardship, as I couldn't go back to my mother's

home because of the challenges I left them with. However, it reached a breaking point; I couldn't take it any more; we were sleeping hungry and the kids were suffering. I suggested to him to take the kids to their mum and support them from there, but he declined. He started becoming abusive physically and verbally; he would stay out all night at some bar and leaving me and the children hungry.

When my baby was 6 months old, I started doing *mama fua* (washing clothes for people) so that I could feed my baby and at the same time save enough to run away from this man. After I had saved enough, I took my baby to my mother in the village while I left for the city to look for a livelihood. This did not make things any better, I came to learn later that my mother was ruthless to my little girl. She used to beat my girl with a *Jembe* stick whenever she made any mistake; mind you, she was only three years.

I was depressed and traumatized by what was going on in my life and as a way of finding solace, I started drinking, partying, smoking marijuana and moving with multiple men for survival. I felt so bad, that I couldn't take care of my baby and I didn't want to expose her to the kind of life I was living in the city. I felt like I was the worst mother, and this broke my heart.

After a few years working in the bars, I met a black American guy. He showered me with lots of money and promised me a future. He helped me find myself; raised my self-esteem, and this forced me to work on myself to heal from my past traumas. I started reading books and my healing journey began. We dated for 3 years, after which he visited my parents and I also visited his family for introduction. He promised me a lot of things, especially that he would never leave me, and he was going to take care of me and my child. I felt whole again, and I was hopeful that things would work between us.

When I got pregnant, the drama started; I came to learn that a lady whom he introduced to me as his sister was actually his wife. This made me feel terrible, as I saw myself as a home-breaker. With this turn of events, I made up my mind not to stay with this man. However, it took me five years before I could move out. The wife came to know about me and she was okay with being the first wife and I, the second wife – but that didn't settle well with me. My intentions of leaving were still there, and I started planning to escape because I was unhappy.

Slowly, I started falling into depression. I used to see myself as a failure and started isolating myself from my kids, and I wasn't able to take

care of them any more. I started beating myself psychologically, that I was not a good role model to my children since I was doing drugs. I always thought that there could be a time when I would be happy in my marriage and be able to take care of my children, but I realized that if my life was to change and that of my children, I had to pick myself up, take responsibility and stop hoping that somebody will bail me out of my mess.

I came to the realization that I am responsible for my life and if I don't save myself, no one will. By then my daughter was already dropping out of high school, she was drinking and doing drugs and my son was talking of dropping school too at the age of 12 years. It really broke my heart to see them turn up this way. This gave me more reasons and determination to turn my life around. It was not easy after I finally left that marriage. Soon afterwards, my daughter, who was 18 years old then, got a baby. At that time, she was preparing to sit for her Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exams, which were in a months' time. My son was also struggling with his grades in school. I finally got a job at a hotel in Dubai as a waitress and we usually communicate with my children while they stay with my mother back at home. It has been stressing for me, knowing what my children have had to go through, yet I can't be with them as I have to work away from

them to make ends meet. I would like to urge any lady thinking of getting married because of circumstances to reconsider. In the event that you part ways and there are children involved, think about the future of those kids.

~ Story shared by Sharon

Reason 17 | I See In Him/Her The Father or The Mother I Never Had

Rehema was born and raised by a single mother. As she grew up, she longed for fatherly love. Many nights, she dreamt of her father coming home one day. As she grew older, her dream started to fade as the father she prayed and longed for many nights never came. However, she thought to herself that all was not lost, as one day she would be a married woman and have a chance to have a husband who would act like the father she never had.

When she got of age, she found a man she deeply loved and got married to him. Ewoi was kind and took care of her and the children. She really enjoyed her marriage and couldn't ask for more, as the man fitted the shoes of a husband and the father she never had while growing up.

When her younger sister completed high school, she came to stay with them before she could join college. The sister would assist her in the house with chores and looking after the children while she was at work. Her husband Ewoi didn't have any issue with her younger sister staying with them, instead of remaining idle in the village.

After several months, Rehema noticed something unusual with her younger sister, who was jovial, vibrant, and active. She was withdrawing from family members, getting agitated easily, complaining of headache and stomach bloating. When she tried to find out what was going on, she was shocked to find out that her younger sister was pregnant. That, however, was not the elephant in the room, what crushed her was the fact that her husband Ewoi was responsible. She saw darkness in the broad daylight!

Reason 18 | **As a qualification to Meet Emigration Requirements**

Mwadime migrated to the USA after he got a green card. They call it, a land of opportunities, but when he got there, finding a wife to settle down with proved a hard task. He resorted to online dating to see whether he could get a lady from his motherland, who could be serious on settling and relocating to the U.S.A. Fortunately enough, he found Esiankiki, a Maasai lady, who showed interest in him, and they agreed to marry. Esiankiki had desired to live in the USA all her life, but every attempt to apply for a green card hit a dead end. This was a golden opportunity for her dream to come true.

Mwadime made arrangements while in America to send his parents to the girl's home for introduction and dowry negotiations. Within a month, the dowry had been paid, and they got blessings to proceed with their union. Within the following month, Mwadime flew to Kenya, where they conducted an elaborate wedding. After the wedding, Esiankiki relocated to the USA and was happy because her dream of living and working in there had come

true. After six months, the relationship started going south; they could not agree on almost everything. Mwadime was manipulative, abusive, and a narcissist.

Esiankiki planned an escape while her husband was at work; she was planning to board a plane to fly back to her country. She was unaware that her husband was tracking her every move. While she was packing her belongings to leave, he descended on her and hacked her to death. After committing this heinous act, Mwadime put her lifeless body in her car boot and drove to an abandoned place, where he torched the car.

Reason 19 | **Don't Marry If She Insists On Marriage**

A newly wedded wife was accusing her husband of infidelity. She portrayed her frustration on the purported suspicion and out of agitation she burned all his cloths, academic certificates, broke his Hisense 55-inch smart TV, utensils in the house and deflated his car tires. As if that was not enough, she went to her social media platforms to expose her husband, calling him 'a community husband' who had no decency and respect for the vows they exchanged before parents, friends, and God. Unbeknownst to the man, the woman had been married and recently separated from the first husband before they met. The woman had now reconciled with her former partner, and she was looking for a reason to jolt out of the marriage to reunite with her ex-husband. Poor man!

Reason 20 | **I Want To Get Married Because I Don't Want To Die Of Stis/Aids**

Stacey thought through her life with the awareness that many people in her locality were infected with HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. She made a decision to get married so that she could be with one partner instead of being with multiple. She was able to find a good man and after dating for a few months, they got married.

Nine months down the line, as she was cleaning their house, she stumbled on a well wrapped bag hidden under the bed. She was not the type that gets nosy, but she couldn't help but check inside. When she opened the bag, she found dozens of ARVS inside that belonged to her husband – he had been taking them secretly.

She discovered that her husband had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS three years before then, and he was under medication since then. This meant that she had already been infected since she had been married to this man for the past nine months. She was so traumatized by the discovery; she couldn't think straight. She cried her heart out, regretting ever getting married to this man. She

was getting married to escape being infected, yet ended up walking right into it. Stacey took a rope and hung herself.

Reason 21 | I Don't Want to Age Alone

Mutisya got married out of the fear of ageing while alone and not having someone to take care of him in old age. He was okay alone, until Kavindu came into his life. They co-habited together for about one year, before she started accusing him of cheating with multiple women. She claimed that his money was being 'eaten' by *Malaya* (prostitutes) and he had neglected his own family. She denied him food and conjugal rights and even claimed that Mutisya could be infected with diseases.

One day, Mutisya drove his boss to a distant town, and it took longer than anticipated to conclude the day's business, forcing them to spend the night in that town. When he went home the following day, he found his wife fuming. Mutisya took a shower, then retired to bed because he was exhausted. While he was dead asleep, Kavindu approached him and chopped off his manhood. The man bled to death with no one in sight to help him. Its better if he had stayed single and aged alone instead of losing his life.



Reason 22 | **To Have a Good Family Like My Mother**

Akinyi grew admiring how her mother and father brought up their family; they were genuinely in love and their marriage was a happy and fulfilling one. Akinyi was especially intrigued by the fact that her mother was in charge of decision-making in the family, and her word was the absolute law in the house. Her father's role was only to affirm her mother's orders. She always said that she would love to have a family in which there was respect, love, harmony, and affection for the partners. When she came of age, she found a humble and truthful man, who just like his name, Humble, was meek. Humble promised to love and cherish her in good and in bad times, in sickness and in good health, until death separated them.

Six months after giving birth, her husband changed; he started drinking heavily, coming home late and no longer provided for her. The husband could go for two days without leaving food or money for them, and never even minded that she was nursing a small baby. Often, the man would come, pass by the mothers' house, eat then

go direct to bed without caring what the wife ate. Akinyi had to go to neighbours to beg for food so that her baby could get milk.

The elephant in the room was that Akinyi was very authoritative, a quality she had borrowed from her mother. She wanted to be in charge of issues at her home and this made Humble feel threatened, suffocated and his authority was being challenged. This resulted in him withdrawing from Akinyi as a way of hitting back at her.

Nine months after giving birth, Akinyi was working in people's farms with a baby on her back in order to get food to eat. The husband started battering her and chasing her away to spend nights in the biting cold. She endured a lot of emotional and verbal abuse. When she couldn't take it any more, she walked out of the marriage with her two little girls without money or any item except her clothes they wore.

Reason 23 | Am Tired of Washing, Cleaning, Taking Care Of My House. I Need a 'Dishwasher' as a Wife

Dr. Myles Monroe in his book *Keys for, Marriage*, states, *"When you assign roles within your marriage, you set up expectations. Expectations cause needless aggravation. Aggravation causes disappointments, which lead to frustration and arguments. Arguments lead to bitterness and strife, which lead to a strained relationship. A strained relationship endangers fellowship.... When the fellowship is endangered, you jeopardize your marriage. True love expects nothing in return."*

Seek to serve, not to be served. Don't expect one person to do all the cooking, washing, or cleaning. If you don't expect your spouse to do those things, then when he or she doesn't do them, how can you be disappointed? When your spouse chooses to bless you by doing something unexpected, you'll be more inclined to be thankful and appreciative.

A role within a marriage should be a temporary responsibility based on the ability of the one who is able to respond to the need at that given moment. Responsibility is determined by availability and capability. If you see water on the floor, don't just

stand there and think, "Well, that's my wife's job. She does the mopping." No, you saw it, so you respond. If you have the ability to respond, then it's your responsibility."

People marry for different reasons and one such man is Kinyanjui who married because he was tired of washing his clothes, and taking care of his untidy house. He found a lady who fitted his description and was happy that his life would be in order. His friends praised him because even his dressing code had improved greatly since he got married; he was clean and no longer recycled cloths. However, one time when the wife asked for money to make her hair, he responded rudely and told her that if she needed money she could go and work, citing he regretted marrying a lazy wife who didn't add any value to his life.

On one occasion, the man got a work related trip, and he was to be away for one week. Upon returning home, he found an empty house; the wife had swept the house clean and left nothing behind except his clothes.

Reason 24 | It is Fashionable to be Called Mrs. XYZ or Hubby to...

A couple housed a young man so that he could complete his high school education as he was walking for a long distance to and from home as his family was not well off financially. The invitation by the couple made the young man, Dickson, to focus on his studies in preparation for his final exams. Thanks to this couple, he sat for the exams and passed with flying colours. The following year, he joined college while still in this couple's house and stayed there until he completed.

After college, he secured a job in a nearby town. Though it was not far from the couple's home, he requested to find a house in the neighbourhood so that he could settle down by himself. The couple was happy that Dickson was finally able to stand on his feet, as he was working and earning a moderate income.

When the man of the house got a job outside the country, he requested Dickson to look after his wife while he was away. Dickson would pass by after work and early in the morning as he went to work. At times, he would buy meat which they

would prepare and eat together and other times he brought her shopping. Eventually, the lady started to feel a strong attraction towards Dickson. Being a hot-blooded young man, he feasted on her like wolves feast on prey. He had fallen for her snare. This continued almost on a daily basis, and they also squandered everything her husband used to send home to his wife for investment. When her husband returned, he found 'his government' had been overthrown. His desire was to be called a husband too, and it worked against him, because he never interrogated the kind of wife he was marrying.

Reason 25 | **Marrying to Correct a Past Mistake**

Malika, a 19-year-old lady, naive and fresh from high school, fell in love with Mukora who was 10 years her senior. She felt something she had never felt before whenever she was around him; her heart would beat with great passion as if it would explode from its chamber; her body felt like it was on fire whenever he hugged her. Her eyes spoke of love whenever they made eye contact. She had never been with a man before; in fact she had neither kissed nor been touched by any man in her life. She was also very beautiful and charming, until Mukora often wondered what he had done to deserve her.

Mukora invited her to his house jokingly not sure whether she would agree, only to be surprised that Malika was more eager to be in his arms in a private place. Mukora was ready to 'feast' on this manna from heaven, as there was no much effort invested in getting the beautiful girl to his place.

Several months later, her friends noticed that Malika had started gaining weight very fast. They started whispering to each other, "Could she be

pregnant?" One evening her aunt told her that she was pregnant, but she laughed it off like Sarah laughed when the angel of the lord told her she would bear a son. She didn't think or imagine a one-night stand could make her pregnant. That evening she looked at herself in the mirror, but couldn't notice much change, except her face looked smoother and her hips more curvy. Before long, it was evident that she was very pregnant, as her dresses couldn't fit any more.

She shared the devastating news with Mukora who agreed to marry her, to save her from the shame of being branded a wayward girl. She gave birth to a bouncing baby boy, whom she named after her husband's father. One day she packed her clothes, took her son and left, never to come back. The man never called or inquired about the boy for five years, but she was okay with it compared to the suffering she had gone through. "Mukora was a narcissist. I went through hell for three years" she said.

However, when the son was eight years old, he started demanding to see his father. It got so bad that the boy could refuse to eat, go to school and was always in trouble with other children in the neighbourhood. She reached out to Mukora requesting if he could talk with his son to see whether he could settle down. Mukora said he

thought the boy was to look for him when he was eighteen. He promised the boy to meet him during the holiday break, and the boy was so excited and eager to meet his dad. However, when the holiday break came, he never showed up, nor called the boy.

When her son got to nine years, she felt a very strong urge to get pregnant again. Her body, mind, and soul demanded for a pregnancy and the feeling was too strong to resist. She thought to her herself that she would correct the mistake she made earlier where she got pregnant unprepared. Further, she would get pregnant with a responsible man who would love and take care of his son.

She thought to herself that since she was beautiful, she will bear a handsome baby boy who would be irresistible to the father. She went ahead, got pregnant and moved in with Kayu, a military officer, together with her firstborn son. She later gave birth to a boy who resembled Kayu, her new husband; Kayu seemed to be pleased with the happening. However, Kayu started punishing and beating the other son frequently for no apparent reason. He had just developed a dislike for the boy to the extent that it became a concern to Malika. He stopped paying his school fees, buying him clothes or anything else that he required. Despite talking with Kayu, it continued to get worse. One

time he hit the boy with a metal bar and broke his arm. The lady couldn't take it any more, she packed her items and left him. She swore never to get herself involved with any other man, instead she decided to concentrate on bringing up her two boys alone.

Although Kayu continued to be involved in his son's welfare, it continued to cause more harm than good. The man could pick his son, take him out, and buy him stuff and gifts during special occasions like birthdays, Christmas... while discriminating against the other son. Malika got very concerned because her firstborn son, had started developing aggression and hatred towards his younger brother, whom he thinks is favoured than himself. His grades in school started drooping and was always in trouble at school. Now she is in a bigger quagmire.

Reason 26 | **My Pastor or Prophet Saw a Vision in a Dream of My Partner.**

Naliaka got engaged to brother Elkana in church after 'the prophet' said he had seen a vision of their union. Since they had been trained that no one could disagree with what 'God' had shown the prophet, the wedding was arranged, and the sister got married to the 'brother in Christ', but what started with joy would end in tears – the marriage didn't last for long.

When the Elkanas got their first child, they took him to 'the prophet' for dedication, as it is the norm in many religious groups. The prophet held the child and said that since this was the first fruit of their womb, he had to be offered to 'god' as thanks giving. They did not take it seriously, since they thought that the prophet was just saying it figuratively. That evening, the baby died mysteriously. A few months later, Naliaka conceived again and bore a son and as before, they took the boy to the prophet for prayer and dedication. The prophet told them that 'god' had asked that the boy be sacrificed to get rid of an evil spirit in their family. The boy died six days later.

The lady conceived yet again and was blessed with a baby girl. Again, they took the baby to the prophet as they always did, but upon seeing the baby, he instructed Elkana to take the child to the mountain for special prayers the following day. He was to be accompanied by the prophet alone, without Naliaka. That's how the prophet, Elkana and the newborn baby vanished. It was discovered later that, the prophet was a sorcerer who offered children as sacrifices to the evil spirits for more power for his black magic. Unknown to the lady, Elkana who was her husband, had been an assistant of the sorcerer for decades.

Reason 27 | **She is Hot with Curvaceous Hips and My Buddies Will Envy Me**

In his book, *Keys for Living Single*, Dr. Myles states that, "If you're thinking of getting married just for physical gratification, then know that your marriage will be troubled from day one and will not last."

Lemako met Wairimu in a nightclub. She wore revealing clothes and her luscious bust looked like it was almost popping out. Call it love at first sight; she was beautiful, had very curvy hips and 'gigantic behind'. Lemako's motivation behind marrying Wairimu was to look like a hero to his peers, he didn't want to consider other things. After a while, they got married and, true to his wish, every man in his circle of friends praised him, saying he was lucky to have found such a 'hot' wife; they even joked that if Lemako happened to die before his time, he should have nothing to worry about because they would take good care of her in his absentia. They coveted his wife and imagined how sweet she was.

Lemako was hard-working and business seemed to be his thing since whatever he ventured into,

it just thrived. He made great wealth over time and as people say, he was swimming in money. Wairimu became greedy, and her appetite for her husband's wealth grew uncontrollably. She wanted everything for herself and so started to plan how she could eliminate him, so that she could be left with all the wealth for herself.

Wairimu found hit men to do the job at a fee of one million Kenya shillings for them to deliver her husband's head to her. She gave them half the agreed amount as deposit, while the balance was to be collected once the job was done. The assignment proved to be a challenge since Lemako was very careful with his moves, but they were determined to accomplish it. One day the couple left home using Wairimu's car, and she was the one driving while the husband sat on the passenger's seat. She alerted the hit men to ambush them and instructed them to target the passenger's side and rain bullets on him. As they were driving out of their gate, the hit men opened fire on them. Lemako was hit; 32 bullets hit their target, and he died on the spot. He had married 'quantity, not quality.'

Reason 28 | **She Came for a Sleepover Which Extended to Days... then Months... then Marriage**

Jymo was dating Pesh for three months and the romantic relationship was beautiful and satisfying to both of them. However, Pesh took over the guy's house as she could leave behind her items deliberately whenever she visited. It started with leaving panties, then a blouse, then a bag, and before he knew it, there were more items belonging to Pesh in his house, than his own. She could come and spend a night with him, sometimes it could extend for two days and one day, she came and never left. That is how Pesh and Jymo 'got married'.

After sometime during their 'marriage', Jymo began to hear rumours that his woman was having an affair with his dad. He could not even imagine that what he was hearing could be true. All his friends were telling him that the relationship between his wife and his father was not a father-in-law kind of relationship; it was more than met the eye.

Determined to find out the truth behind these rumours, Jymo prepared very early one day as if

he was going to the office, left the house and hid behind their house. Before long, he heard Pesh telling somebody over the phone that her husband had left, and it was safe to come over. Throbbing and shoving, his heart threatened to leave its chambers. He was anxious as he waited to see who would appear. To his shock, his dad came and got inside his house. Shortly afterwards, he began to hear noises that he could not stomach coming from his house. In a fit of rage, he shoved his way into his house, and hacked his father to death.

Reason 29 | **Assumption that You Will be Compatible i.e. Similar Profession, Religion, Family Social Status**

A guy met a lady while they were in the university and developed a great liking for her. After pursuing her for some time, she accepted him, and they started dating. The love birds were the model couple in the corridors of their university. Everyone envied them because they looked so perfect for each other. They were seen holding hands, kissing in public, going for dates and, above all, they showered each other with gifts. Everyone said that they were meant for each, and all signs indicated they would make a great couple.

The guy graduated first and got a job with the public service. The year that followed, the lady graduated as well and got a job with the private sector. The man's starting salary in public service was 20,000 Kenya shillings, while that of the lady was 50,000. The following year, the two got married in a colourful wedding and everyone wished them well in years to come. They were blessed with three children, a boy and two girls.

The man worked so hard to provide and care for his family. He could take his family out for lunch

every Sunday after church and would also buy expensive gifts for his wife. Above that, he always consulted his wife on how to spend his income. At one point in time, he got an opportunity that earned him 100,000/-, when he confirmed that the money had been credited in his account, he called his wife for them to discuss what they would do with the money. He was so open to his wife and everything he had belonged to the family.

In their tenth year of marriage, the man's monthly salary had grown to about 100,000/- while that of his wife was about six times what he was earning – she was now held the position of a regional director in her private sector job. The couple was doing well, they looked happy, and their children were in expensive schools; they had what many couples would dream of.

One particular month, the man was unable to pay rent due to some loans he had been servicing. He had to pay double the usual amount that month so as to keep up with the loan payment. He requested the wife to help him pay rent for that month since he didn't have any money left. The wife shouted at him and said that she could not pay rent and feed a grown man. Further, she told him that she would leave and take their children with her. While the man was thinking that it was just a joke, she went into their bedroom and packed her cloths

and those of her children and asked the kids to get in her car so that they could leave.

In disbelief, the husband begged her not to leave, citing that it was more convenient for him to leave than her and the kids. The man went in, packed his cloths and documents and left. Six years later, the man was served with a court order that his estranged wife was demanding for child support for their children. The wife was demanding that he pays 200,000/- for their upkeep. He was seething with anger as he studied the document.

The man went to the court and defended himself against the case levelled at him, arguing that he could not afford to remit the 200,000/- monthly support. After submitting documents and his payslip, the court ruled that he be remitting 50,000/- monthly to his wife in support of his children.

What we are learning here is that compatibility entails more than being in the same university, career, similar family background or social status. Your vision, goals, career growth, finances, among others things should be discussed in detail when entering into marriage. Further, people should never separate over material things, especially when one finds themselves earning more than the other, be it the wife or the husband.

In *The Prophet*, Kahlil Gibran wrote, "*When love beckons to you, follow him, though his ways are hard and steep. Though the sword hidden among his pinions may wound you. Though his voice may shatter your dreams as the north wind lays waste the garden. All these things shall love do unto you so that you may know the secrets of your heart*"

Reason 30 | **Marrying for Sympathy Purposes**

Consider Jamie who met Nellie two weeks after Nellie had been fired from work. Jamie was swept off his feet by the astonishing beauty that Nellie was. The two hurriedly agree to meet for a coffee date and as they say one thing led to the other.

During the date, Nellie narrated her ordeal to Jamie who empathized with her and decided to provide Nellie with a shoulder to lean on. He saw it as a perfect opportunity for him to win her heart. In a few months, the two were inseparable love birds. Jamie asked for Nellie's hand in marriage, which she accepted immediately, without hesitating. After all, she was still struggling to find her foot after losing her job and the idea of having someone in her life who would provide for her needs was very welcome at that moment. They moved in to live together six months after their first date. Their first two years of marriage were happy and fulfilling.

During their third year together, Nellie received an invitation for job interview, which was successful

and landed a lucrative position in an international organization. At this point, things started falling apart in their union with Jamie. Nellie was now financially stable and her need for support was no longer there, so Jamie's usefulness had been overtaken by events. According to her, there was no way she was going to stay with him. So she left him unceremoniously. The once a bubbly man, became disillusioned and fell into depression; he sold all he had, including his clothes and the last thing that was heard of him was that he was confined in a mental hospital.

Does Marriage Work or is it Just a Scam?

Faith A. Oyedepo in her book, *Making Marriage Work*, shares, *"Marriage is good! Don't think that marriage is for shame and reproach. No, my friend! You don't have to settle for an average home, you don't have to put up with continuous quarrelling and fighting; you can make that marriage work! You can have a marriage free of hurts and wounds, you can enjoy fulfilment and God's goodness. That is the realm of marriage God wants you to enter into. He wants to bring you to a point where men and even devils are compelled to acknowledge God's glory that is all over your family. That is your heritage as a child of God!"*

The scripture says in **Genesis 2:18, 21–23**, *"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will provide a partner for him...' So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'Now this at last is bone of my bones and*

flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

Gary D. Chapman in his book, *Things I Wish I'd Known Before We Got Married*, says, "The decision to get married will impact one's life more deeply than almost any decision in life. Yet, people continue to rush into marriage with little or no preparation for making a marriage successful. In fact, many couples give far more attention to making plans for the wedding than making plans for marriage. The wedding festivities last only a few hours, while the marriage, we hope, will last for a lifetime."

How a Couple Can Keep Each Other Safe and Secure - an article by Peter Mugi Kuruga

We are social animals who need and depend on other people and want to feel loved. As partners, we need to be able to be ourselves just as we are, to feel cherished, cared for, and protected. This has been the pursuit of humans since the beginning of recorded time. One way or another – through wholesome, healthy means or less-than-savoury means – we seek our safe zone. This longing for a safe zone is one reason we marry. However, partners, whether in a romantic relationship or committed friendship, often fail to use each other as advocates and allies against all hostile forces. They don't see the opportunities to make a home for one another; to create a safe place in which to relax and feel accepted, wanted, protected, and cared for.

When we enter into a relationship, we want to matter to our partner, to be visible and important. We may not know how to achieve this, but we want it so much that it shapes much of what we do and say to one another. We want to know our efforts are noticed and appreciated. We want to know

that our relationship is regarded as important by our partner and will not be relegated to second or third place because of a competing person, task, or thing.

The truth is, even if a couple does experience a profound connection, this represents only the beginning of their relationship. What ultimately counts in the life of the couple is what happens after their courtship, love affair, or infatuation phase. What counts is their ability to be there for one another, no matter what.

Guarantees a couple should give each other:

- “I will never leave you.”
- “I will never frighten you purposely.”
- “When you are in distress, I will relieve you, even if I’m the one who is causing the distress.”
- “Our relationship is more important than my need to be right, your performance, your appearance, what other people think or want, or any other competing value.”
- “You will be the first I tell anything about us and not the second, third, or fourth person I tell.”

For sure all marriages face challenges, however, there is hope.

Problem-Solving In Marriage

In his book, *Model Marriage*, Dag Heward-Mills notes six ways to solve challenges that may arise in marriage. He notes;

1. Be ready to compromise — There is no winner or loser in marriage, you are one flesh.
2. Things to avoid when solving problems:
 - a) Do not shout
 - b) Do not share your problems with your relatives or friends
 - c) Do not break down in tears
 - d) Do not use sex as a weapon (do not refuse him/her).
 - e) Do not refuse to eat prepared food
 - f) Never use the word divorce in quarrels....
3. Have a forgiving attitude and spirit. Forgiveness is very essential for the survival of the marriage.
4. Be prepared to talk frankly about the issue.
5. The other party must be willing to accept fault and apologize. The words, "I am sorry" can resolve almost all quarrels.
6. Do not let any problem colour your actions



May We Never Say Goodbye

In his book, *The 5am Club*, Robin Sharma shares a poem from one of the characters that says;

May We Never Say Goodbye

A chance encounter and that very first glance,

Your beauty moved me

And your strength calmed me.

Life's unexpected windows of opportunity

Sent by a knowing intelligence

Asking us to do our part. By taking a risk.

Only those who dare will win.

*Only those willing to face rejection will find their
salvation.*

*Only those who reclaim their power will experience
a resurrection.*

I never known true love.

I've never believed in double rainbows.

Romantic walks and holding hands at sunrise.

I never imagined that first kiss would lead to this.

When you fall, I will support you.

Should you be scared, I will hold you.

When you are in doubt, I will stand by you.

*When you enjoy success, I will raise my glass to
you.*

And when you feel like leaving, I won't let you go

I think of you constantly.

I feel you deep within me.

I'm not sure what I've done to deserve you.

But my dream now is to grow old with you.

May we never say goodbye.



Epilogue

This book encourages marriages that are intentional rather than circumstantial. Marriage which is intentional is beautiful and fulfilling to a couple and their children. On the other hand, when a couple marries out of pressure or situations such as pregnancy or peer pressure, there might reach a point where they will feel like they made the wrong decision. Given another chance, such situational couples would reconsider their first choice. They end up being what Bowen Theory states, "People just occupying the same space with no relationship whatsoever."

When there are children out of such a union, they will feel the gap and suffer either because of what Virginia Satir* calls, *"cold affect, quiet desperation and emotion violence."* If and when separation takes place, the children will be bruised emotionally and psychologically, consequently leading to behaviour disorders and, most likely, the same cycle repeating when they get into a marriage later in life.

*Humanistic theory of marriage and family therapy

It's therefore, of paramount importance, for the individual to think through why they want to marry in order to make an informed decision pertaining to this lifetime commitment. The person you marry will affect your destiny and success in a great way, hence the need to marry right.

If you are already in a marriage, it is important that you work on both of you so that your marriage stands. If you don't weed your relationship, the weeds will overtake the flowers of love. Put off wrong advice, intruders, home breakers and be intentional in cultivating your marriage as a model marriage. Please take note, marriage has many enemies, be vigilant and protect your partner.

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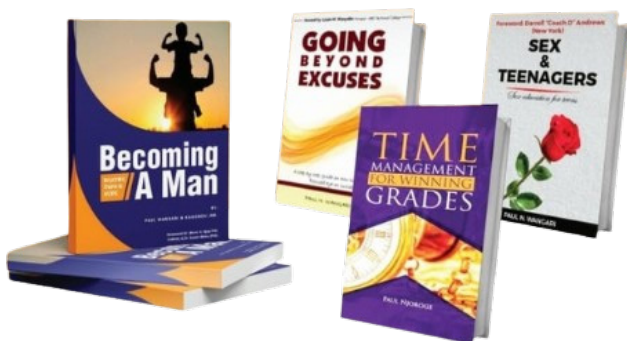
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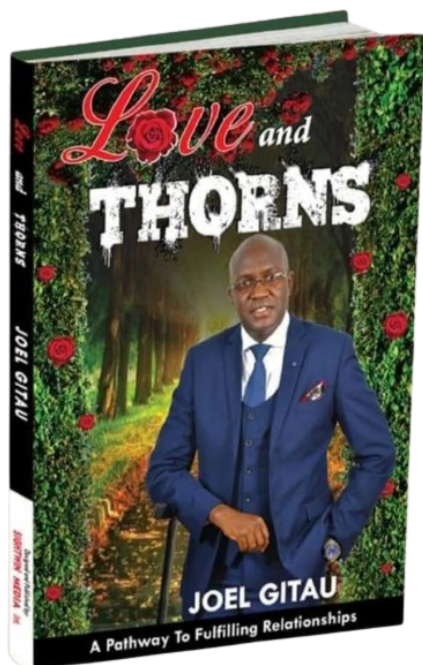
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