

SCREENPLAY FOR A REALITY TV SHOW

Living Single: Parenting Series

Episode 1 (Season Premiere) - "Introducing..."

Produced by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. LOCATION #1 - DAY

Aaron is cleaning up swiftly, after preparing breakfast for Marsha. As Marsha puts a piece of toast in her mouth with a banana and book in hand, Aaron is hurriedly pushing her toward the door. They run down the steps of the brownstone toward the car. Aaron speeds off down the street.

EXT. LOCATION #2 - DAY

Omar and Tyler are running toward the school bus, Sonya rushes outside the door and begins to run after them with books in her hand. Omar has reached the school bus and as he is entering Sonya approaches him handing him his books and then kisses him on the cheek and reaches over him to kiss Tyler on the cheek. Omar smiles while shaking his head as Tyler laughs and they both turn around to find a seat. Sonya stands there as the school bus closes its doors and pulls off; she waves her hand.

INT. LOCATION #3 - NIGHT

Mary sorts through a mountain of papers on her desk and grabs a stack, hesitantly, as she looks at her watch. Her desk phone rings and she

just stares at it until it stops. Then a sweet muffled melody sounds as she searches for her cell phone, and as she looks at it her eyes grow bigger. She quickly grabs her jacket, purse, and briefcase and hurries out her office door.

EXT. LOCATION #4 - Night

Malik looks up toward the sky as the moon peeks from under a small cloud. As he sits in a lawn chair on the porch, a tear begins to roll down his face. He opens a can of beer and starts drinking it. After a couple of sips, he goes back into the house and pours the rest down the kitchen sink, and then angrily squashes the can in his hand and throws it in the garbage can.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

CHARACTER #1

AARON: The single father who is rather successful and has managed to prioritize well enough that he has a good balance between his work and personal life. He has an Ivy League background, and although has been privileged all his life, he believes in hard work. He adopted his daughter after she was entrusted to him when his daughter's biological mother (Aaron's ex-girlfriend) died of a drug overdose. He has never shared with his daughter the story of her mother, the daughter only knows her mother died giving birth to her.

CHARACTER #2

SONYA: The woman who is living from paycheck to paycheck and her twins' father is refusing to pay child support. She takes the father to court, where he was ordered to pay \$100 a month although he has more income than what is documented since the father is also a musician that makes money under the table.

CHARACTER #3

MARY: A woman scorned that is a divorcee. A year ago, her husband left her for his mistress. When he left, he left her with nothing but the mortgage and other bills. Thanks be to God, she's

had much success in her career and has always been independent. Therefore, transitioning wasn't too hard on her yet she has to learn how to handle an angry daughter who has grown rebellious.

CHARACTER #4

MALIK: A single father who is between a rock and a hard place. Although trying to do the right thing, he's being bullied by his son's mother simply because he's trying to move on with his life and make a better life for himself and his son. He has a criminal past that his son's mother won't allow him to forget, and it also makes it hard for him to get a decent job or start a career. He finds himself frustrated a lot, but he knows he can't give up because he wants to be a good example for his son as well as start his life with his fiancé.

ACT ONE

AARON: He shares the story about his ex-girlfriend who was into drugs. She got into drugs after she became involved with a guy she met after breaking up with him. After they broke up they remained good friends and she made him her daughter's god-father. He was present when she went into labor and was not aware of her drug habit until she gave birth and died shortly after. It was a secret she kept from him, and he couldn't understand why yet he has always been a man of his word and decided he would do whatever it takes to raise Marsha. He is the only father Marsha knows; in fact, she only knows her mother died giving birth to her. Through the telling of his story, he feels he has to tell Marsha the truth about how her mother died and that he's not her biological father. We get a sneak peek into the life of him and Marsha, and their dynamic. They have an extraordinary bond, a great relationship. We see the positive side of a single father's story and the love he has for Marsha despite the fact she isn't his blood.

ACT TWO

SONYA: There was a time she was in a serious relationship. She was head over heels for a guy, but he didn't want to commit to her and she wanted more. She explains when she decided to give up on the relationship that she found she was pregnant with twins. She wanted to stay with the guy for their sake and then realized it wasn't worth it and that they could just co-parent. Her thinking that they could co-parent ended up just being mere thoughts of hers. The twins' father wasn't cooperative so she had to turn to the justice system thinking again that they would rule in her favor of the kids. Yet, he was ordered to pay

very little, which may have been nothing in her eyes. \$100 a month for two children helps barely at all. The odds seem to be against her. He enjoys his life without responsibility and the money he makes under the table he keeps for himself out of spite. In the end, the children suffer the most and she can't comprehend why their father doesn't see it that way.

ACT THREE

MARY: This is a woman of success, but it took hard work for her to get where she is. She introduces herself as a bitter divorcee trying to get a grip on her teenage daughter. Though she has financially secured them and provided in every way possible, she's not having much success in the parenting department. She disciplines her daughter, which may work for a little while but then she gets into something else. The woman scorned works many hours a week as an executive at a firm, which leaves less time for her to spend with her daughter and she feels that could be part of the problem. She also believes her daughter carries anger and resentment toward her father since he seems to be so occupied with his new family. She's a single mother who expresses her struggle with parenting alone as well as forgiveness.

ACT FOUR

MALIK: A father who only wants the best for his son. He has turned his life around from a life of crime -stealing. He expresses how he got saved, gave his life to Christ, and wanted more out of life after that. He's been working, saving up money, so he can pay an attorney to get shared custody with the mother. The mother just doesn't want to let go of his past and is making it hard for him to move on with his life. She seems to have a bit of jealousy as well. He met a woman at the church he attends and they are engaged. He's a father that's torn simply because there are only certain jobs he can do in light of his criminal record yet he wants the best for his son, and he wants to be able to take care of his future wife as well and give her what she deserves.