



OTHERLY URGES

- ARCHANA SREENIVASAN

IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, EVEN FROM THE AGE OF 17, I HAD NO DESIRE TO EVER BE A MOTHER.



WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, YOU WILL WANT A CHILD.



LATE TWENTIES...

TRY IT WITH AN OPEN MIND YA! YOU DON'T HAVE TO MARRY IF YOU STILL DON'T WANT TO!



CREATE YOUR PROFILE



NAME: ARCHANA
AGE: 29 YRS
HEIGHT: 5FT 9IN
EDUCATION: PG DIPLOMA
CITY: BANGALORE

ABOUT:

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH I DO NOT WISH TO HAVE OR RAISE CHILDREN - YOURS, MINE OR OURS. BLAH BLAH-DE-BLAH BLAH BLAH.

UPLOAD

TO MY SURPRISE, A FEW POTENTIAL SUITORS STILL CONTACTED ME!

IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING... YES, I'M MARRIED. AND NO, WE DIDN'T MEET ON A MATRIMONY SITE.





TODAY I HAVE FRIENDS WHO FEEL DEEPLY FULFILLED BY MOTHERHOOD.



I'M HAPPY FOR THEM, BUT I DOUBT I CAN EVER FEEL THAT WAY.



BUT WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU WHEN YOU'RE OLD?

I DON'T KNOW MA...



BUT INVESTING 20+ YEARS OF MY LIFE IN THE HOPES OF HAVING SUPPORT LATER ... JUST SOUNDS LIKE A RECIPE FOR DISASTER...



THERE'LL PROBABLY BE SOME SYSTEM FOR PEOPLE LIKE US WHEN WE'RE OLD... I'M SURE THERE'LL BE OTHERS LIKE US. NO?



AN ASTROLOGER ONCE TOLD ME:

YOU WILL CHOOSE NOT TO BE A MOTHER. BUT IN YOUR LATER YEARS YOU WILL CRAVE TO DO SOMETHING FOR CHILDREN

HMM... I ILLUSTRATE CHILDREN'S BOOKS. DOES THAT COUNT?

COUSIN. 41. UNMARRIED, CHILDLESS.





HAVEN'T I EVER FELT LIKE I'D LIKE TO BE A MOTHER? Tick Tick Tick



ONE TIME I WAS VISITING A RELATIVE WHO HAD HAD HER SECOND DAUGHTER. (NOT THE FIRST OF THIS KIND OF VISIT)

HELLOO LITTLE PRINCESS!!



AND OUT OF THE BLUE MY HITHERTO CLARITY ON NOT WANTING CHILDREN WAS SERIOUSLY SHAKEN.



AND AS I PROCEEDED TO TOTALLY FREAK MYSELF OUT, I CONTINUED FANTASIZING ABOUT A LITTLE ONE OF MY OWN.





BUT THE FEELING WORE OFF...



I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT BROUGHT
IT ON, BUT
I FEEL NO
REMAINING
TRACE OF IT
TODAY.



AND
IT HASN'T
HAPPENED
AGAIN,
SINCE.



IN MY TEENS AND EARLY 20's, I TOOK PLEASURE IN ANNOUNCING MY OH-SO-REBELLIOUS STANCE ON MOTHERHOOD.



I ENJOYED SHOCKING PEOPLE...

NOW MY IDEAL TIME TO MAKE BABIES IS SWIFTLY RUNNING OUT AND I NOTICE NO CHANGE IN MY MOTHERHOOD PLANS...



IS IT BECAUSE I'M

SELFISH!

IMMATURE!

NOT WILLING TO RELINQUISH BEING THE CHILD!

AFRAID OF RESPONSIBILITY!



MAYBE.
BUT MORE THAN
ANYTHING, I'M NOT
A MOTHER BECAUSE
I DON'T FEEL
INSPIRED TO
BE ONE.

NAMELESS
ANXIETY

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO
UNDERSTAND THAT,
AND PEOPLE WHO
DON'T...

THERE IS NO PLACE
FOR A BABY IN YOUR LIFE
IF YOUR ART IS YOUR BABY...



AUNT. 60+ YRS. LIVES PASSIONATELY. MOTHER OF 2.

EITHER WAY, MY STANCE IS NO LONGER
A BRASH ONE. I OFFER MY HEARTFELT
APOLOGIES TO THE ONES WHO'D HAVE
MADE WONDERFUL GRANDPARENTS.



RESEARCH INDICATES
THAT 1/3RD OF THE
MILLENNIALS DON'T
PLAN TO HAVE
CHILDREN. WHO
KNOWS IF SOME
OF US WILL LATER
REGRET THAT...



YET, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, IT'S
A CHANCE I'M WILLING TO TAKE.





~END~



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