

Relationships



WAIT TO DATE

FOCUS ON YOU

BY AILENE TORRES

THIS YEAR STARTED OUT WITH MUCH PROMISE when I met and dated Mr. 97 Percent in January. Without going into specifics, I've been exhaling ever since I exorcised him from my life in May. Note to self: online dating just doesn't work for everyone, despite how hopeful and optimistic one may be.

Now that I'm looking to the future, I've been confronted with this yet again: Do you want to get married? Short answer: No.

Thanks to statistics on the matter, it's a bit of common knowledge that women like those reading this column and myself are making it to the altar less, or much later in life, if even at all. If marriage is your end game, the question is, then: What becomes of you until you snag the one ring to rule them all?

The young twenty-somethings are told to focus on their educations and careers. The thirty-somethings are encouraged to travel and have adventures. But what do you tell unmarried women in their forties—the supposed death decade of dating—who feel incomplete without that one person to clean up after, procreate with and wake up to day after day for as long as they live?

One voice in the chorus of advice, Koereyelle DuBose, tells women to prepare for their future life by learning now how to be a good wife. To be fair, she's not just telling this to 40-year-olds but to women in general through her website, www.TheSingleWivesClub.com. She started the club after breaking an engagement and realized she didn't have the tools or the knowledge to become a wife. Then DuBose filled the void with an online portal.

At first, I guffawed at such a concept, but rather than continuing to laugh, I asked her if the site was only for women seeking husbands.

"Absolutely not! In addition to relationship readiness, we offer tons of resources

that help our ladies become well-rounded women who live lives that they love," DuBose said. "Even if you aren't interested in marriage, any woman who seeks personal development will absolutely appreciate what we offer. (Although most women who say they don't want a relationship or want to be married are doing so out of fear. Marriage isn't scary. Marrying the wrong person is.)"

With my initial doubt (and a parenthetical comment that could turn into a future column) pushed aside, I found much value there for me, the happily single woman. There is information on health and fitness, business and finance and, of course, love and relationships and more. The club is more than the articles. There are challenges, classes and events all geared around living the #SingleWifeLife.

I know there is one area where I could improve, and it's in the picking of a partner. If Mr. 97 Percent proved nothing else, he proved that mutual interests and perspectives are not enough. Money and accomplishments are no longer safe benchmarks to use when separating the men from the boys. That's where SWC comes in handy. The free content is plentiful and includes free ebooks and podcasts about the expected topic of love and romance plus bonus content on business and entrepreneurial coaching.

Maybe I will and maybe I won't ever get married. There's something very empowering about planning for life on your own. But if I ever do take the plunge, whether it's in the form of saying "I do" or committing on a long-term basis, I can see myself better prepared for the lifetime commitment by focusing on what I can do instead of worrying about what I can't control. The Single Wives Club has a lot more in store.

Along with the city and online events, this October 21–22, the Single Wives Club will host its biggest event in Atlanta. "WERK-PraySlay" weekend is three days of fun-filled events for women, single and married.

"We are on a mission to equip women all over the world with the skills, knowledge and preparation to become happy wives. Through marriage mentoring, live and virtual events and our blog, our goal is to inspire you to become better women before becoming wives," DuBose said.