

Single Dad...Not Singled Out!

SINGLE DAD...NOT SINGLED OUT!

BY

DAVID ASBERY

**OMAS & BERRY PUBLICATIONS
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT**

David Asbery

COPYRIGHT © 2006

DAVID ASBERY

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NO PART OF THIS BOOK MAY BE
REPRODUCED IN ANY FORM, EXCEPT FOR THE INCLUSION OF BRIEF
QUOTATIONS IN A REVIEW, WITHOUT PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM
THE AUTHOR OR PUBLISHER.**

ISBN - 1-59872-549-1

ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS BOOK ARE AVAILABLE

VIA MAIL

**OMAS & BERRY PUBLISHING
HAMDEN CT 06518
212-365-0012**

OR

VIA E-MAIL

**WWW.DAVIDASBERY.COM
OMASBERRY@AOL.COM**

DISCLAIMER

This publication is being sold with the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional service. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a professional person should be sought after. The opinions and conclusions expressed in this book are solely those of the author. Names, characters, places and incidents are either the product of the author's view. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

Single Dad...Not Singled Out!

**OMAS & BERRY PUBLICATIONS
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT**

David Asbery

Acknowledgements

I hope that you truly enjoy reading this book, and I thank you for your love and support. To my two sons, David and Jamarl, I love you more than you'll ever know. To Rich and Hazel DeJesus, your telephone calls of inspiration have helped me to get through this grueling process. To Orielle "Cookie" Hope, Dr. Angela Chandler and Kellie Daniels, thank you for your initial edits and critiques in the early stages. To Shelley Thornton, thank you for the slamming bio. To Damon Wayans, Kenan Wayans, Marlon Way...Oh hell, to the entire Wayans family, thanks for having the vision and for taking me under your wing. Hope that I made ya proud. To my friend, Seymour Swan, I got nothing but love for ya. Plug: You can see Seymour Swan at the New York Comedy Club in New York City every Friday and Saturday night. To David Scott, thanks for being a good friend. To Charles B. Updike, Esq., thanks for supporting me and being the only person I know to buy twenty-five copies of my first book. Now that's support! To Dolores Van Scott, Shera Henry, Gerard Burke, Hovah Williamson, and Yolanda Jeter, you have stuck by me for twenty years. I love you all. To Angela, Keith, Deron & Corey Holmes, thanks for keeping me grounded. To my mother and father, Hattie and Harry Asbery, thanks for never challenging the fact that I'm an artist first. To my aunt, Beatrice Wigfall, I LOVE YOU! To the Reverend and Mrs. Randolph Ellis Jr., thanks for all of your love and advice. To my road dawgs, my security, Jamel Wright and Mark Christian, thanks for being on my side regardless if I'm right or wrong. To Wayne Dixon, Veronica Law and Maurena Holder, thanks for cheering me

Single Dad...Not Singled Out!

on. To Irvin Wallace, my best friend in the whole entire world, man, I love you! There, I said it. To my mother-in-law, Brenda L. Thomas, from day one, you have been an absolute joy. Thank you for believing in me. I hope that I have made you proud. To Asim K. Thomas, Ed Ellis, Sr., and Randolph Ellis, III, it is so rewarding to see young men become enthused, involved fathers. Last but not least, I'd like to thank my wife, Tanisha T. Asbery. This book would not be possible if it wasn't for you. I could not have completed this book without you there by my side. You have given me love when I needed it and you have kept me in check when I was loafing off (e.g. "I bet Eric Jerome Dickey or E. Lynn Harris aren't playing with their X-Box. They're probably working on their fifteenth book.")). Girl, you have made me a better man. For this, I dedicate this book to you, baby. I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you! Oh yeah, one more thing, for those of you who are wondering why I didn't thank God for all of his blessings, I did this intentionally. You see, I'm positive that He's just about tired of all of my begging and whining. After He blessed me with a book deal, I promised that I wouldn't bother Him anymore...at least not until the next book that is. For those of you whom I missed, I'll catch you on the next book for sure. Live to Laugh!

David Asbery

Table of Content

INTRODUCTION.....	7
BEGINNING OF IT ALL.....	11
YOU GOT SERVED.....	18
ACCEPTANCE.....	21
CHILD SUPPORT BUG.....	23
SUGAR DADDY.....	28
SCHOOL DAYS.....	33
CUSTODY.....	39
ALL IN THE FAMILY.....	44
THE COURT DATE.....	50
HELP IS ON THE WAY.....	53
THE EDUCATION OF DAVID ASBERY.....	57
DOWN AND DIRTY.....	62
I LOVE YOU GRANDMA. YOU TOO ROD.....	68
DADDY'S LOVE.....	77
CONCLUSION.....	80

Single Dad...Not Singled Out!

Introduction

Every year millions of families are forced to deal with the aftermath that derives from a divorce. It is estimated that a young couple marrying for the first time have a lifetime divorce risk of forty percent. It is also estimated that eighty-five percent of the time, children from these divorced couples end up being raised by the mother. In short, mothers are being awarded custody while many fathers sit and watch it all unfold. The reason for this lax attitude has a lot to do with how men initially view the family court system.

When a man steps into an arena, whether it is a judicial arena, or sports arena, he expects the rules to be fair. He assumes that the keeper, i.e. Judge, will regulate the event with the skill and confidence needed so that both sides can agree and move on. Unfortunately, this is not what happens in Family Court, and men continue to arrive unprepared and leave dumbfounded. For example, I know

David Asbery

men that will practice for weeks before a big game, meeting, or power lunch. However, when it comes to dealing with an issue in Family Court, they will simply wing it, thus placing the matter in the hands of a poorly structured family court system, a system that has proven to be biased towards men and has the power to strip you of all of your rights with regards to your child.

Winging it can no longer be an option when it comes to your children. Single fathers must take a more aggressive approach when dealing with the family court system. Being a part of your child's life is the most rewarding thing in the world. As a father, you have the ability to change someone's life for the better. All you have to do is step up to the plate and play your part.

My personal experience within the confines of the family court system was a heart wrenching roller coaster ride from hell. It left me both shocked and appalled. This system is so bold that it need not hide its blatant biases towards men. When you step into this world, you will be carrying the weight of every so-called Deadbeat Dad in existence. It will be up to you to prove them wrong. You will have to show them that you are the exception to what they assume to be the rule. You will need the staying power, the perseverance to see this thing through to the end.

When I look at the news and see some of these young teens that are causing havoc here in the United States, the majority of them all seem to have one thing in common. They are from a single parent household where the mother is the primary caretaker and the father is nowhere to be found. Does this tell you something? This is not rocket science that we are dealing with here. Single mothers need your help. I will agree that there are many "I do it all" mothers out there that deserve to be congratulated.

Single Dad...Not Singled Out!

However, there are just as many that do not have the skills needed to raise a child alone. Young boys and girls are in desperate need for their fathers and it is our job to be there for them.

For those of you have been recently dubbed with the title of “Single Dad,” please don’t let this journey that you are about to embark on deter you from being a part of your child’s life. Your children’s survival and future depends on your involvement.

David Asbery

FADE IN:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY BRONX COUNTY
FAMILY COURT HOUSE

INT. COURT ROOM OF THE JUDGE – DAY

Single Dad, DAVID ASBERY is here today to gain custody of his two boys, David M. Asbery and Jamarl H. Asbery. His wife and her attorney are sitting at a table to the left of him. David glances at them both for three long seconds. After a year and a half of testimony, today they all stand before The Judge for her decision in this custody case.

COURT OFFICER

All rise, the honorable Judge Zucker presiding.

The Judge steps up to the bench. All eyes are on her as she politely instructs everyone to be seated.

DAVID ASBERY

(whispering to himself)
God please, give me this!

Single Dad...Not Singled Out!

Chapter 1

Beginning Of It All

Before I get into how I ended up in Judge Zucker's chambers, I'd like to first take you on a journey that so many of us men go through. My mother and father have been happily married for over 50 years - an accomplishment that is rare in these times. I, too, aspired to emulate this achievement of being happily married to my wife. Then it happened. My wife and I had come to a point where it no longer made sense to stay together. Both of us had done our fair share of cheating. Before the breaking point of our relationship, we had agreed that the extra marital affairs would have to cease. After a year of thinking that her affair was over with, which I later found out that it was not, I made the decision to leave the relationship.

David Asbery

It took some time for me to come to terms with the title of “Single Dad.” In an instant, it seemed that “Single Dad” was my new name. My introduction to the true meaning of this title occurred when I was served with child support papers by my wife’s girlfriend. I felt angry, and yet embarrassed. I had taken care of my wife and our children for the entire eight years that we were together. Why would she feel that I would stop taking care of them? After being in a relationship with her for so long, I felt that she should know what I would or would not do. The embarrassment set in after reading the legal documents, and realizing that what it had all come down to was that my wife did not think that I would take care of my children. To make matters worse, she was going to let the entire world know about it - starting with my job. This was my very first hurdle after becoming a single dad, and I can honestly tell you that I wasn’t handling it well. I was so embarrassed and fearful of the fact that everyone at my job would know that my wife and I were separating, and that she felt it necessary to file for child support. It was a personal attack on my character. I felt like she was saying, “David, you are not man enough to handle your affairs. I’m going to get the family court system to handle things for you.”

As my court date drew near, I pleaded with her to give me a chance to prove that our situation could be handled without going to court. But my cries were to no avail, she would not budge. By the time the hearing date arrived, I was a nervous wreck. I can honestly say that this had to be one of the weakest moments of my life. My life was on hold, waiting for a Judge to make a decision about my relationship with my children and my financial future.

That first day in court is one that I will never forget.

Single Dad...Not Singled Out!

As I sat in the waiting area of the courthouse, I looked over at my wife and noticed how relaxed and calm she appeared. Looking at her further infuriated me. I felt like a criminal awaiting my sentence. We entered the courtroom, and the Judge listened to us bicker back and forth for about thirty seconds, and then ruled as follows:

Mr. Asbery will pay Mrs. Asbery 25% of his salary. Mrs. Asbery and the children, David Maurice Asbery, and Jamarl Harry Asbery will remain on Mr. Asbery's health insurance plan. The child support payments will be garnished on a bi-weekly basis and sent to Mrs. Asbery via The Child Support Collection Agency.

When I questioned the Judge as to who will be helping me out financially, he simply ignored me as if I had asked the most asinine question. I then asked the Judge if he took into consideration all of the additional items that I purchased for my children such as clothes, vacations, holiday gifts, etc. His response:

No, Mr. Asbery. The purchase of those items are of your own doing and has nothing to do with this proceeding. That will be all, Mr. Asbery.

Suddenly, our case was finished, and I was so angry. I felt like I was going to explode. Twenty-five percent of my salary was gone. My wife had successfully used the family court system to her advantage. I had no control with regard to my kids. She had it all. For weeks, I battled back and forth with this situation until finally I came up with an

David Asbery

answer that seemed to put things in perspective. Women have all of the control because we give them the control.

When a woman wants to get out of a relationship she does all of the things necessary to protect herself and her kids. Men, on the other hand, sit back and watch everything as it all unfolds. We come to court without a clue with respect to the ramifications of a child support or custody hearing. When I think about my child support hearing, I can clearly see that I wasn't aggressive enough. Over and over I asked myself, Why did I show up to this hearing so unprepared? When there are meetings at work, I prepare for them. When I am hanging out with friends, I am the one who is always in charge of finding out what time everyone will be meeting. What happened to this extremely organized individual that takes pride in trying his best to be on point? The only answer that I came up with was fear. After being served with child support papers, images of being broke and out on the street flashed in front of my eyes. I had heard all of the stories about how bias the family court system is towards men. Most of the stories started off like this: "Man, at Family Court every man is considered to be a deadbeat dad. Man, they are going to take everything."

It seemed like every time I would tell someone that I had a child support case coming up, they would look at me like I was about to tap dance on some hot coals in hell. Hence, the fear of the unknown had created negative imagery that caused me to focus only on the pessimistic aspects of my situation. The saying, if I had known then what I know now, is something that constantly runs through my mind. If it weren't for fear, I would have handled this situation much differently.

It is through my experience that I intend to help you

Single Dad...Not Singled Out!

to better deal with the reality of what goes on during a child support hearing. After years of analyzing this situation, I can now laugh at my reactions. When my relationship came to an end, it was ugly. What did I expect? Why did I expect my relationship with my wife to end amicably? Did I expect my wife to say something like, “David what we had was wonderful. Though we are parting, I just want to tell you that I understand why you are leaving me?” No! No! No! Breakups like this only happen in the movies. In real life, breakups happen more like this:

Her: “I hate you! You make me sick to my stomach!”

Me: “I hate you, too!”

Her: “You are such an asshole!”

Me: “It takes one to know one!”

Her: “Your mother!”

Me: “Your mother!”

How the hell did I expect to peacefully leave my relationship after spewing words like this? Regardless of who did what, as a potential single dad, you must put what you have done or what was done to you into its proper perspective. Priorities must be properly aligned. The majority of breakups that I have come in contact with were ugly. And during an ugly breakup, you will be arguing, and most likely you will be cursing. I get so tired of reading relationship books that instruct couples to be civil towards one another. This advice is one to be taken if we lived in a perfect, idealistic world. Unfortunately, we are in the real world, and in the real world, ugly and hurtful things are said. “Fuck,” “shit,” “bastard,” “motherfucker,” “asshole,”