

Never in a million years would I have considered loneliness to be a gift. For the last ten years of my marriage, I was rarely alone, but I was desperately lonely. For these four years since my divorce, I have really struggled with loneliness. I believe it has been the hardest obstacle to overcome. Harder than anything I've ever had to face in my life. To me, that is saying a lot, because my life has not been easy.

While married, I can't blame my being lonely on my ex-husband... At least not completely. Yes, it takes two to make a marriage work, and the same two are responsible for how it ends. For me, personally, I went into my marriage with so many insecurities and questions, and never really had anyone to help guide me, or someone from whom I could seek and find wisdom. I was a dysfunctional mess, bringing up three children who undoubtedly acquired some of my issues as well.

Near the end, my decision to seek answers to my many questions resulted in the end of my thirty-two year marriage. I found myself alone more, but the difference being that it was my choice. I had no idea how painful that decision was going to be. Sometimes I was frustrated because I had to go on being a mother to my two grandsons, and never had time to just wallow in my grief, without having to fix dinner or go over homework assignments. What I used to resent; I now know was a true blessing in disguise. I don't wallow well, and I will forever say that having the responsibility over these two boys saved my life, more than once.

There were many things that seemed unfair during these four years. I'm sure if you were to hear the other side of the story, it would be very different. But from my side, while I carried the bulk of the responsibility with the care of our grandsons, my ex-husband was free to come and go as he pleased. He did offer to take the boys, but that solution wasn't even an option for me. I don't want to rehash old hurts, but I just couldn't see his being the main caregiver to the boys. Yes, they would be fed and clothed, but there is so much more to it, isn't there?

So with that, even though caring for the boys was my choice, there were times when I felt angry, because I wasn't free to go out with my friends and stay out late if I wanted. I wanted to try and date, but I wasn't really free to do that, having to explain two boys at home, at my age. I've since come to learn that I had no business even thinking about dating, because I had not yet faced my demons and baggage from my past. I could say the same for my ex-husband as well, but I no longer had a say in what he did with his life. He has made his choices and will have to live with them.

I don't know why, but it seems like the majority of we women who are divorced later in life end up alone. Why don't the men in these scenarios take time to find themselves before they jump into the next relationship? Why, especially if there have been numerous marriages, do they think this new marriage will work when the previous marriages failed? Especially if they barely let the corpse of one marriage grow cold before they jump into a new one. I will say it hurts to see this happen, being the one left without a mate. That's where the unfairness of it all comes in.

But herein lies the gift I want to share. Yes, the pain is real. I'm still a woman who longs for strong arms to hold her. I long to be kissed tenderly and want to feel the security that comes from being a force of two, but not at all costs. My humanness longs for those things, very much. But my favorite quote says it best; We are not human beings having spiritual experiences. We are spiritual beings having human experiences. My faith, my spiritual compass led by God and the Holy Spirit are my priorities.

I have been reading more about the gift of loneliness, and as God always provides, there have been devotions and stories crossing my path to encourage me as I continue through this strange journey. I am learning that the loneliness I feel is drawing me even closer to God, revealing how desperately I need him. The things of this world, even human love, is temporary. I am learning to find comfort in my singleness, finding hobbies I enjoy and focusing on my mission to raise my grandsons. I pray they will grow to be confident men who will learn how to be alone when they need to be and will love God completely.

I still pray for that 'diamond in the rough' mate if it's God's will. If there is such a man, he must absolutely be sealed by God, set aside especially for me. Have you ever looked at dating apps for people over sixty years old? It is scary out

there! If I am to remain alone the rest of my days, then so be it. I refuse to compromise because I'm feeling lonely. Never again.

Blessings,

Lisa Jo



[Megan Woods - The Truth \(Official Lyric Video\)](#)