

# Foreword

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This book grew out of a desire for two people to work together to better our black community. To do this, we have to look at many things one of which is our black families and relationships. What better way to show how we are weakening the structure of our homes and our communities than to illustrate it in a story.

In 2014, a startling statistic was released that 72% of African American babies are born to unwed mothers. Some of those were unplanned pregnancies that occurred because two individuals merely found one another physically attractive. There was no relationship, no commitment and no foundation.

Nothing that lasts is built without a strong foundation and that includes our black families. According to a 2014 article released in the *Washington Post* children from two-parent households tend to be more successful at school, work and in their marriages. There are several factors that contribute to this but the one that most resonated with Marcus and myself is that children with married parents have more engaged parents, which means they have more time to spend with them to teach them, monitor them, encourage them, nurture them, love them, etc.

It would be foolish to think that we could stop unmarried people from having sex but perhaps we could encourage people to use protection and realize the importance of marriage and family before creating life. Sex is more than recreation. It's a responsibility that could end up impacting more than just the two people engaging in it.

This is only beginning, Jae Henderson and Mario D. King hope to hold events that uplift, encourage and enlighten but what better place for two authors to begin than in a book. We hope you enjoy the story of Natalie and Marcus. Yet, more importantly we hope you receive the message imparted within it.

**Jae & Mario**