

For And About You

By Harriett Muhammad

Dear Harriett: My mother died when I was a teenage girl. I had two brothers who were younger than I and I felt I had to be a mother for them by working to keep the three of us together.

ONE NIGHT, one of the worse things happened to me — a thing that has scarred my life and has caused me to suffer much shame.

I had been baby-sitting for this family, and I had a lot of respect for this man. I often told my girl friends I was not afraid to work for this family at night because this man never bothered me.

One night, instead of taking me to work, he took me for a ride and molested me. He threatened me and told me "Just do as I say do and you had better not say anything to anyone about it or you know you will get a lot of people stirred up." I supposed he meant the K.K.K.

Well, Harriett, I had this rapist's baby and carried it

the whole nine months — afraid to tell anyone the name of its father. No one could believe it because they knew I was a good girl. You will never know how I felt, not knowing anyone to talk to and I was so afraid. People tried to get me to give the child up for adoption, but I was very confused.

I ALWAYS dreamed of the day when I would have a husband and a family. Never had I thought that I would live my life in such shame. Now, I am 33 and the child is 13. I want to do things for him and I have done things for him, but, Harriett, I hate him. Everytime I look at him, I see that rapist.

I have gained weight and let myself go. I could have been married by now but I always felt guilty when a gentleman would see my child. As a result, I have isolated myself from people. Please tell me what I can do.—M. C., Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear M. C.: It is very unfortunate that you have let this terrible crime continue to scar your life. It is very painful, also, to realize that this same thing has happened and happens to other black women in this country. We, as a people, are products of such. This is certainly nothing to be proud of, but neither is it a thing about which to feel guilty. The shame and the guilt should belong to the rapists.

Such acts have become institutionalized. This fact

(Continued on Page 24)

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Harriett Muhammad: For and About You

(Continued from page 19)

takes the problem ~~and~~ hands of an individual ~~and~~ it has yet to be ~~done~~.

LET'S JUST consider you as a person. Why feel guilty if you are free from blame? Why hate your son when he is not at fault? Why isolate yourself and make your life situation even more miserable? It has happened, so what are you going to do — be living and yet dead?

Some things in life YOU can control. Change your mental attitude and your life will change. You know, peo-

ple can take pity on you when something terrible and unfortunate happens in your life, but if you continue to carry your burdens a long time unnecessarily, they think you are foolish.

Come out of this grave you have made for yourself and try to live again. I'm challenging you — for to live is a challenge. Do you accept?

If you want a husband and a family, they are yours for the taking, but they will never be given to you. If you want a husband, fix yourself again and go to work. There are men who will accept you for what you are and let the

past remain in the past.

SOMETHING on your mind? Write and tell me about it.

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CORE Hits Chgo. P.O.

Chicago CORE, headed by Robert L. Lucas, has charged that 81 per cent of the total employes at Chicago's Post Office is Negro but Negroes represent only 15 per cent of the supervisors.