

Chapter 5

As I write about my relationships, it may appear that I was unhappy most of the time and with less than admirable mates. I actually appreciate the friendships, the care and concern, the effort and time from those who loved me, and most importantly, the lessons I learned. Yes, I made decisions that did not serve me, and sometimes others well, but I have learned not to regret my experiences. Like failing a test that holds you back a class, if you want to move forward to the next class, you take the class and test(s) again until you pass. It took a while before I passed this Relationship 101 class, and the next major test seemed more difficult than all the others.

It would be a while before I gained full clarity regarding my relationship challenges. One relationship which started a few years prior, ended shortly after I moved back to Atlanta in September 2003. The hardest thing was to force myself to stop caring about someone in order to move on with my life. But I was finally out of that relationship, on my own accord, for a change. I could not imagine ever again being in any type of relationship that would take me through so much emotionally. But, I would be in yet another relationship where I chose to ignore the fact that there was no emotional commitment. This time, he disappeared for two years; returned, left, returned, and disappeared again. And yes, I allowed it all.

I thought I had met someone who was free of any issues that would deem him “unavailable”. What I did not know, was that he had a tendency of going M.I.A. . I also realized there were other reasons and people that may have created an impetus for him to disappear as well. I had signs.....yellow flags and red flags. But he told me to tell my father that he loved me and wasn’t going anywhere. I remember telling my Daddy, in a snippety tone, “ Boyfriend told me to tell you that he loves me and isn’t going anywhere”. Bless my Daddy’s heart, because he didn’t say anything, but I knew he had reservations. But I chose to ignore even my father’s doubt. Since Boyfriend said he was not leaving, I regarded our relationship as a done deal.

I tolerated quite a bit, because I knew he wasn’t going to leave me. Yeah, right. About a year into the relationship, we had unprotected sex. I was asked to do something immediately about it because he was very potent and was not in a position to have a child at this time. So I spent the next Sunday at Grady Hospital for about six hours getting approved for the morning after pill. I spent my own money and went alone on this adventure. Shortly afterwards I went back on birth control. I was given a Lo estrogen pill because when asked, I disclosed that I had had a myomectomy a few years ago. I had gotten off of birth control because my doctor in Miami had advised me that in my case, the Pill may have been contributing to my high level of estrogen.

About three months later, I began experiencing pelvic pain and heavier cycles. I went to the doctor and was told I had fibroids. Interesting timing. That was in 2005, and as I already shared; the next two years were worse than my first experience was with fibroids. I experienced all of my hospital visits while Boyfriend was gone for those two years. Even though I eventually recovered from the fibroids by having the hysterectomy, I had not yet recovered from the relationship.

To be continued.....