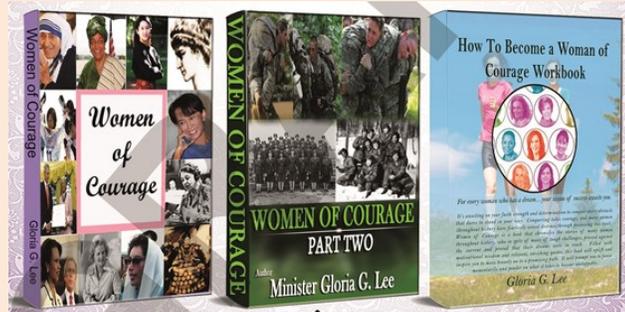


An Interview With The Author of Women of Courage



1. SO TELL US CAN WOMEN OF COURAGE HELP SPARK LIFE IN OTHER WOMAN AND PREPARE THEM FOR THE CHALLENGES OF MOTHERHOOD?

Women of Courage was written to incite women to act not dream or fantasize and let their lives pass them by. In the 1920 and 30's women would sit in the basement sipping sherry frustrated because they could not live the life they desired. I wanted women to read Women of Courage and ask themselves why not. Why can't I be Secretary of State? My goal for women of courage was to show that women could literally achieve anything. I researched women who had succeeded in life as astronauts, scientists, lawyers, politicians, you name it. When women and men read the names in women of courage, and I want them see how much women have accomplished. I want women see themselves and they think, Hey! That could be me. If she can do it, I can do it. The stories I have put together, and the accomplishment of women throughout the ages should inspire any woman to be great mothers, and more. I discussed man facets of life where women who have stood up to murderers and rapists and won.

2. HOW DO YOU HOPE TO HELP MOTHER'S, ESPECIALLY SINGLE MOTHERS BECOME BETTER PARENTS?

Being a single mother is stressful. Your stress level is just higher. It feels like you against the world, every single day. Small decisions become big decisions, and many women second guess themselves as mothers. What I want to do is to restore confidence to women. To do that though, you have to speak to women and you have to change the way they think about themselves and their problems. Women must understand they are the single most

important person in a child's life every decision they make or fail to make can have a disastrous affect on their child.

3. WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE WOMEN OF COURAGE?

After I researched the murders of 20,000 women I realized that some women invited the men who raped and murdered them into their lives. These women did not know the warning signs to protect themselves. I want women to stand up to life. I want women to fight back with their minds. People fail in life or succeed in life because of the way they think. So many women do not think positively. They look to their bodies as the only solution to wealth and success. Negative individuals do not encourage themselves. Instead, many women speak to themselves as if they are going to fail before we get out the gate. So Many women have not been taught to stand and fight, as children and have not been taught that their mind is what will determine a successful outcome in life. I wrote Women of Courage to showcase strong women who never quit in the face of adversity. I want every woman to become a Woman of Courage.

4. WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER ABOUT WOMEN WHILE RESEARCHING AND WRITING IT?

Women can be their own worse enemy. They constantly talk themselves out of seeking the most out of life. The human spirit desires daring and adventure throughout life. When we do glean excitement in our lives through associations or employment we become unhappy. Women tend to be some of the most unhappiest individuals on earth because they never get a change to reach for that brass ring. They are discouraged from birth sometimes by relatives teachers or parents. To counter the discouragement wrote Women of Courage to focus more on each woman's personal contribution and the story of how they were able to rise to the top of their fields. It's great that women become lawyers, but I wanted women to see just how much women sacrificed to become the first in their field. It's the human interest story that grips people that make them examine their own lives and ways to improve.

5. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES SINGLE MOTHERS FACE TODAY

There are two major challenges for single women with children getting an education and finding a safe job that pays enough to raise a family. Single mothers have to do the job of two parents, which means earning enough money for their children and being knowledgeable enough to make the right decision consistently. You want to make sure your child has the right friends, goes to the right schools, is safe and protected. You always fear that you've made some mistake, that one slip up will cost you. This constant pressure is so much for anyone to bear, so working on mental strength is one of the best things a single mother can do for herself. As I research violence against women, I realized single mothers are the most vulnerable individuals in the work place. They work some of the most menial jobs they have to leave early in the morning to take their children to day care and arrive at work on time putting them at risk for rape and murder. Many single women do not have a car so they have to take the bus or pay someone to drive them. Or if a woman wants to be home during the day women for her children she take jobs as supervisors at restaurants or convenient stores to make extra money. This type of employment is extremely dangerous because to save money most employers have the woman working alone. Women are working these jobs because they lack the education.

6. WHAT CAN SINGLE MOMS DO TO BETTER PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR PARENTING THEIR CHILDREN ALONE?

First, take a deep breath, and remember that there are thousands of women who have raised children alone, and they have blessed the world with the young men and women they've raised to adulthood. There is no reason that any single mother out there should think that she is destined for failure. No matter what position you find yourself in financially, a woman's mental strength is what will win her the day. She must prepare her mind every night for the trials of the next day. Read encouraging literature. Speak to encouraging people. Set goals for yourself. As you reach each goal especially in education you will believe yourself a winner.

7. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE WOMEN WHO ARE THINKING ABOUT BECOMING SINGLE MOMS?

Do not do it. If you are not married do not get pregnant. Do not assume the role of a single parent unless you are educated and have the benefit of a job with benefits, health insurance life insurance etc. the best thing to do is seek a man who wants a family a man who wants to be a husband and a father. Seek a man who is respectful. Yet if you do take the decision to become a single mother then prepared to stand and fight.

8. WHY ARE MORE WOMEN CHOOSING TO BE SINGLE MOMS?

Again, it may not necessarily be a woman's choice. Some men don't want to have families, or married couples divorce, and then the woman is left with the child. I want every single mother out there to know, on this mother's day, that being a single mother is just another challenge women before you have conquered.

9. WHAT MOTHER'S DAY ADVICE AND ENCOURAGEMENT WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAVE MOTHERS WITH?

I want women to understand that courage is not a characteristic only akin to men. Courage is a characteristic exhibit by everyone who is trying to live a wholesome life. Keep looking at the face of your child courage will come. There is not a barrier that cannot be overcome once you believe.

I want women to stop talking so much. Sexual predators are now seeking out single women with children.