

SAY NO

My name is Sarah, this is my story.

I felt so ashamed of my mum. After my dad had left, she just had a string of boyfriends one after the other. Some of them used to last a while, but most of them were short-term.

They were all my uncles. Yeah right! That was until I was old enough to know the difference, and then my mum stopped caring what I thought and told me she had a life too, and she was going to live it.

She never showed me any real love. She said she cared for me, but I could not feel it. She said she loved me, but I could not feel it in her actions. I grew up as a child yearning for love and affection.

There was one so-called uncle who had a son who would have been my cousin, if my mum had been telling me the truth when she said he was my uncle from my Dad's side. He was down from Manchester with his son and needed somewhere to stay.

Joe and Me

His son's name was Joe and we got on very well. We lived in a block of high rise flats, and we would play out together all the time. For the first time in my life, I felt like I had a real brother. He was older than me so he used to look after me as well.

As usual, that relationship did not last long. I was so upset because Joe was the first male to show me that he really cared about me and now he was going.

Even though he was only one year older than me, he was the closest thing I had to a father like figure who looked after me.

I said my goodbyes and went back inside my house, tearful at the loss of someone I really cared about. Looking at my mum, I was angry.

I was also confused since my mum had always done everything she could for the men I saw her with. Whatever they asked her for, she had done it like she could not say no. But, they still either left or she sent them packing.

**This is an excerpt from 'The Seven Principles of RESPECTisms'.
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