



AN  
AMERICAN  
STORY:

MY FAMILY  
AND YOURS

***LIBERATION OF THE INNER SELF IS POWER!***

THE FREEDOMS WE *SHARE*,  
ARE BASED ON THE FREEDOMS  
WE *EMBRACE*.

DR. MAMIE SMITH

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“Lillian, you have done so much for me, but I am sorry, I’m not interested in him.”

“Ok. I would certainly take him up on it if it were me. But, he likes you.” I thought to myself, “Too bad.”

One night about a week or two later when Meta and I were in the apartment alone, the phone rang. Upon answering, the voice on the other end identified himself as the used car guy. For a few seconds, I was astonished as to how he had gotten the number. Then . . . of course Lillian had given it to him, maybe thinking *he* could convince me to change my mind about having a relationship with him. As he talked, mostly with my listening, he came right out and said he was very interested in me, and wanted to help me financially as much as he could. Needless to say, I came right out and said I was not interested in anything he could do for me. I don’t recall all of the things he promised, but the answer remained “No!”

“Is it because I am white?”

“Yes, that’s part of it.”

“Why?”

“Maybe it’s because I grew up in Mississippi, I don’t know . . . but I am not interested in ‘being kept’ by a white man.”

“I thought that is what you would say. I like you because you are a very attractive woman, and not because you are black.” I thought to myself, “Yea, sure.”

“I’m sorry, you seem like a nice guy, but when I enter into another relationship, I want to believe it will lead to marriage. And I do not believe that is what you have in mind.”

“Why not find out?”

“No, I’m sorry.” After trying to convince me of his sincerity for a while and not getting a positive response from me, he hung up. A couple more phone calls followed, but finally he was convinced there would not be