

MH 1100

Section 05

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### Invisible Child

The story talks about how Dasani lives a homeless life. She has to take responsibility of her parents and siblings. She is an honor student in school but understands that she might not have many opportunities in life. Her parents do drugs and have been to jail multiple times. This time they are trying to be better. They are looking for better opportunities. However, there are many bumps in the road.

My initial feelings were of sympathy when I started reading the story. My feelings of sympathy were targeted towards Dasani and her siblings. When I reached the part about her parents, my feelings shifted from sympathy to anger. I feel that as human beings we should have an understanding of our responsibility. Dasani's parents decided to bring eight lives in the world but do not have the emotional and physical capacity required to take care of them. Sympathy, pity and anger are the three main emotions that I altered between while reading the story. I also felt happy while reading how the teachers viewed Dasani and hoped that things turn for the better for her.

Her home life has pushed her into the shadows and she wants the same to be applicable in her social life. When she goes out she wants to blend in and do not want to be seen by other. She

wants to be brave and courageous but inferiority complexes that she has developed due to her environment keep trying to push her back. The aggressiveness, anger and defiance in her behavior also comes from her lifestyle. She needs to be tough in order to survive in the kind of environment her family is living in.

The signs of learned behavior in Dasani are very faint. Unlike her parents, she understands her responsibilities and treats her siblings like a parent would. She understands that her situation is not good and she wants to work towards making it better. She takes her nature of getting into fights from her mother. Sometimes these actions help her in gaining some respect; however at other times these actions tend to back fire.

These were my first thoughts when I started reading about Dasani's parents:

1. I felt that they are not responsible adults because of their actions of bringing eight children into the world without considering their financial situation.
2. Their drug use made me judge as people as drug use makes life difficult not only for them but for their children as well.
3. The repeated jail trips made me sympathize with the children who were left to themselves during such periods.
4. Her parents lack of attention to how they are spending money made me feel angry at them. Spending all the money they got in a week on unnecessary things will not help them in moving forward.
5. Fighting in front of children is not a good practice as it leads to various disorders in them. Moreover, beating children just to let out anger is another practice that scars them for life. I felt angry when I read this part of the story.

As a social worker, I would help Dasani with help that she requires with regards to looking for better study opportunities. There is a lot of potential in her and she needs to be guided by people who can help her in utilizing her skills and finding venues through which the world can know about her. The main challenges that I will face from her and her family are a lack of interest and responsibility. They might also not want help from me.

I feel that Dasani's parents are not doing the things that they are responsible for. They have put their children in a dangerous situation because of their lack of understanding. They feel that they have to live day to day instead of planning ahead. Their inability to understand the importance of responsibility can make me feel anger towards them and might lead me to view them as people I do not like. This is an example of counter-transference as I am letting my emotions and my understanding of the world reflect on to Dasani's parents.

Dasani might feel that I will judge her for who she is and where she belongs from. She generally believes that people tend to look down on her if they get to know about who she is. Moreover, she also has not been able to find any help from other social workers. She might feel that I will not help her and that will lead to her not letting me help her. This is an example of transference because she will be projecting her emotions on me.

I feel bad for Dasani and her family. She and her family have not been able to get opportunities that they deserve. The decisions of government to put pressure on homeless people have affected them negatively. I relate to the Dasani and her family as I have also had to go through periods of struggles but I have come out of them, I hope she and her family gets out of these issues.

Practicing empathy, I think that she feels sad and feels pity for herself. The living situation is not good and she wants to hope for the better. Her performance in school shows her that she can be better, however she does not feel that being better will help her. I think she feels disappointed in her parents and scared of how they will act.

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Works Cited:

O Leary, Joann M., Cecilie Gaziano, and Clare Thorwick. "Born after loss: The invisible child in adulthood." *Journal of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Health* 21.1 (2006): 3.

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