



## KATE RAE *on* MOTHERHOOD

“YOU LOVE KIDS! YOU’D BE SUCH A GREAT MOM!” is something I hear all the time. It’s a statement as ludicrous as “You love apple pie! You’d be a great apple farmer!” I do love kids (well, most of them) but I simply have no desire to be responsible for one every second of the day. Instead, I aunt, a hobby that is, essentially, all paycheck and zero work. My sisters have produced for me five beautiful, hilarious, wonderful, magical children. I love them all rabidly. My friends are forever supplying me with sweet-smelling babies. I feel zero need to produce one of my own.

That wasn’t always the case. I used to think I was going to have kids, and then I married a man who felt differently. I didn’t fight it. I never stopped taking my pill, “just to see what would happen.” I never felt sad about getting my period. It was good, I thought, our family of two. And then he vanished, seemingly overnight. I was 38, and unless I wanted to have a baby by myself (I did not)—or become one of those swirly-eyed sperm-seekers, madly making the dating rounds—it looked like I was on my own. And that felt really okay.

The worry is, of course, that you will change your mind. That one day you will wake up and you will cry over a diaper commercial but your eggs will have turned to dust and you will live with a broken, empty heart for the rest of your life. That age, apparently (according to urban lore), is 40, which I turned six months ago. My mind hasn’t changed.

As someone who grew up with a single mom, I know how important the village is. I am still incredibly close to and forever grateful for the women and men who clasped each other’s wrists to form a net underneath our little family. I like being the backup. And a cursory glance at my friends (and their babies) proves that I don’t need to share DNA with someone to love them fiercely.

Now I have fallen in love with a man who has two kids, and I have fallen in love with them as well. We’re planning to move in together, and we’re all trying to figure out how this new relationship will work. I am delighting in my role, not as a mother, but as a friend, a helper, the Kate. >

### DO YOU EVER FEEL THE NEED TO JUSTIFY AN EXPENSIVE PERSONAL PURCHASE TO YOUR PARTNER?

- 62% a) No, my partner doesn’t care
- 25% b) Only if I used money from our shared account
- 9% c) I never tell my partner how much I pay for anything—regardless of whether or not I use my own money
- 4% d) I never share details and often sneak new purchases into the house

### MOTHERHOOD IS...

- 44% a) Something I’m doing right now
- 26% b) Something I definitely want to do someday, if the stars align
- 13% c) Something I’m still on the fence about

**14%**

d) Something I know I don’t want

- 3% e) Something I’d rather not talk about

### YOUR RELATIONSHIP STATUS IS:

- 22% a) Single
- 3% b) Dating around, but nothing serious
- 16% c) Dating one person
- 56% d) Married or common law
- 2% e) Too complicated to explain
- 1% f) I’d rather not say

### IF YOU’RE SINGLE, WHY? (TO RISK SOUNDING LIKE YOUR GRANDMA)

- 14% a) I just got out of a relationship and I’m taking a breather
- 26% b) I’m dating but no one special has come along yet
- 30% c) I’ve all but given up on dating because there’s a massive dearth of quality people out there
- 30% d) I honestly prefer being on my own—I don’t know if I’ll ever get into a committed relationship



*Unless I wanted to become one of those swirly-eyed sperm seekers making the dating rounds, I was on my own*