

For my Madre

1. Was your experience with being single and taking care of two children before me and my sister make it easier or harder?

It wasn't harder or easier, it brought new challenges. With your older siblings they helped take care of you and your sister which made it easier, but it was more worrisome to feed 4 mouths instead of 2. I had to take care of the finances of daycare and overall expenses for 2 newborns. I was overly blessed to have you guys in my life but was still faced with the worry and fear of being a single parent and not being able to give you guys the things 2 parents would have. I wanted to be able to give you guys the world and more but with the limit of being a single mom with less income. I feared doing it alone because of your father passing away early in your childhood.

2. How was your emotional state affected after finding out that my dad died and would have to take care of two more children by yourself?

Your dad was my everything and every part of me was shattered to pieces. Just thinking how unfair it is of him not being able to be there through all your milestones. The things that got me through it was seeing you guys with me and knowing that he is looking down watching and seeing the similarities in the both of you. It gave me more strength to keep going each day.

3. Do you think you would be making more money if you didn't have to provide for 2+ kids by yourself? Do you think you would be doing the same job?

Yes, but I would be a selfishness and self centered individual which is unhealthy. I wouldn't have experienced unconditional true love. I don't know, I love my job now and I have gotten this far in my job because of 4 beautiful kids that gave me the strength to be and do better. I wanted to be a legal attorney but that was before I wanted kids because I didn't think I would be a good parent. Anything you want, you have to work hard to achieve. If you are just handed everything, you would take everything for granted.

For my sista

1. Do you think it would of been easier to be an only child and live with a single parent or is it better to live in a single parent household with siblings?

Kali personally thinks in a neutral position. She believes that if she was an only child, it would take the load off on the single parent. The parent to her wouldn't be having to pay excessive amounts of money and can devote more time, in a sense, to just that one child. But, Kali had also mentioned that having other

siblings is more useful. With siblings, you have others to relate to and there is more help being able to give to the single parent.

2. How do you think our life would be if our dad didn't pass when we were young?

Kali said that she honestly doesn't know. She said that we probably would live a whole other altered lifestyle, in comparison to the one we are living now. A whole new school, different friends, more family-orientated, etc. Kali said that "with a father around, it may have been easier for us to learn the male parental role." But to her this question comes with uncertainty and a lot of what-ifs. Another thing though that she mentioned that was interesting was of her personality. She feels she wouldn't be as uptight with budgeting money and constant worry to be of help to others if there was our father.

3. How do you view the world as having a single mom vs teenagers who get older with 2 parents?

Living a life with a single mom makes Kali feel more guidance and strength. She said that she learned perseverance and actual dedication. Having a single mom compared to two parents taught her of independency. Kali told me that actually a lot recently has she learned that people with two parents tend to be more ungrateful, than those with one.

4. How do you feel when you see or hear friends or peers talk about their moments with their fathers?

"Since it happened at a young age for me, I think I don't acknowledge it as much as maybe I should be but I still notice it." Kali feels that it is sometimes hard seeing other teenagers not appreciate their fathers, because if she had hers she wouldn't let go. One thing that sticks in the back of Kali's mind was that who would walk us down the aisle for our wedding day? Or be there for those tiny moments. We haven't reached any big significance yet, so to Kali she only hopes that she can keep/maintain the strength during those milestones.

My answers

1. Do you think it would of been easier to be an only child and live with a single parent or is it better to live in a single parent household with siblings?

I think that it would be easier to live with siblings with a independent parent rather than be an only child. If I was an only child I think I wouldn't have the strong family bond. My older sister and brother took care of my sister and me which created an even closer bond with them as I got older. With my mom working often I don't get to see her so I feel like if I was an only child, I

