

A woman with voluminous curly hair is smiling broadly, sitting on a couch. A young child is leaning against her, also smiling. The background is a cozy living room with bookshelves and decorative items.

**The
Moment
I FELT LIKE
A REAL
STEPMOM**


**VIP
STEPMOM**

Naja Hall

THE MOMENT WHEN I KNEW I WAS A "REAL" STEPMOM...

I know a lot of women that have stepped in and stepped up, but they do not get the acknowledgment and validation from the people around them. They've found themselves in love with a man with children, but they do not quite feel like a REAL stepmom. I decided to pose a question to my online community. I asked thousands of women to tell me about the moment they knew they'd truly become a STEPMOM. Some of the responses are hilarious and others have an all-too-familiar tone of heartache. One of my main goals here at VIPStepmom is to challenge and inspire you. I look forward to loving, learning and living our best lives! We deserve it!

-Naja Hall

I'm getting married in 2 weeks today but I had the stepmom realization when my fiance's tiny human was having extreme stomach pains and she curled up in my arms and cried. I felt like I was exactly who she needed. She needed a mom in the moment and I was it.

~ Ali K.

The moment I made the commitment to be with him. It was full-package deal and I decided to take on that role from the second that we decided to be together.

~ Ally L.

When my step daughter came to live with us and I had to take her to school at 6:30 am.

~ Tawny T.

THE MOMENT WHEN I KNEW I WAS A STEPMOM...

From the very first day I was introduced and in the picture. All of a sudden two parents schedules could not facilitate pick ups and drop offs or activities. So insert the gf who shall never be acknowledged (it's been 7 years) who will leave work, modify her own appointments so that her mans daughter can get to activities, get to school, and bio mom may continue her career, watch football with obsession and go to the gym. Never a thank you. Never accountable. And yet has fully rationalized that somehow her daughter got taken care of that. I wonder how?? Sometimes becoming a step mom was never a choice. The role kind of just happened because I saw a child missing out on things that she should experience. So I made up for what she was lacking. Yes being a stepmom right off the hop built resentment. I was 23 and starting my career and very much being a mom to someone else's child who very much lives in her own self centered world. If bio mom says the sky was purple, fine, it was.

~ Gwen A.

When they started inviting me to the toilet to see their poop!!

~ Yvonne S.

Well she is 26 living at home with us. Making enough to move out but won't (& why would you??)

Me: Do your own dishes

Her: But your about to be my mom.

Me: Your too old for that and u have a great Mom. Let's just try to be friends

~ Michelle S.

When my step sons bio mom stopped being a mother and I had to step up and do her job. Also when my step son started to recognize me as his step mom. I will marry my boyfriend in 3 months but I have been a step mom for 4 years now.

~ Sarah F.

When Mother's Day comes around and everyone says happy Mother's Day but

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THE MOMENT WHEN I KNEW I WAS A STEPMOM...

my step daughter. Don't even hear from here! Yearly reminder.

~ Cathy Y.

When I overheard my stepson say, "that's my stepmom." I was like, "oh shit just got REAL."

~ Kelly T.

I realized oh shit I'm a step mom at 2 am one morning when a puke covered little boy tiptoed around his dad to wake me up "Becca Becca I need you" LOL

~ Becca I.

When we were together for a year, we moved from the East to the west coast to be more nearby the kid even though we only see the kid just a couple hours on the weekend (including the mother at times).

~ Helen K.

Not sure if we will get married but when my Step kids asked me if they could call me that I swooned. It was before we lived together and way before bio mom realized how much she loathed me. LOL!!!

~ Tanya T.

I was about two weeks into stepping and I made my stepson this amazing breakfast. I ran upstairs to wake him up and realized he wet the bed. Huddled him off to the tub, got him cleaned up and dressed, stripped the bed and we came down to my dog standing on the dining room table chowing down on bacon, eggs and pancakes. My stepson and I both started bawling. Him because his breakfast was gone and me because I was so over my head. I went from being the most single girl in the world to instant mom and I was shell shocked.

~ Tiff B.

Years before we got married when I was bathing my 4 y/o step son after feeding

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him dinner and he said "my mom said you're not supposed to give me a bath." I realized this situation was going to be a situation!

~ Cassandra P.

When I had to consider them in my food shop/cooking, when I had to arrange sleeping and most profoundly when I was left alone with them and my own children.

@thesteppmomsclub

I wasn't yet married but my SD (then 5) came in the bathroom while I was showering and asked how long I'd be. I told her a few minutes (while holding the curtain closed (LOL) and her response was OK but hurry because I can't stop thinking about you!' She then ran off yelling that she loved me and I've been a sucker for her ever since

~ Clea Y.

I just posted about this! It was the first time I was solo shopping with the boys and my littlest little wanted to be put in a cart. A. How do you get a wiggly 3 yr old that weighs 35 lbs in a cart and B. I felt so foreign to be pushing a cart with a child in it!! I snapped a photo saying who the F am I..... in that moment I knew...:

@wicked.stepmom

I realized the moment his bio mom abandoned him and we got a call to pick the child up along with two garbage bags full of his clothes. We were dating for a while and had decided to marry just a week prior. I was stunned at age 42. The child was only four and newly diagnosed with autism.

@agewell_lifestyle

The first time was when my oldest step son was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. My heart sank when they said that they were admitting him for it when he went in because everyone thought he had a U.T.I. I loved him and was so sad for him

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and my husband for his little 7 year old life. I left work right there to be with them. That's when I knew. At that time mom, dad, step dad and step mom were all there and just full of support and love for him. That's when I had my,"oh shit, I'm a stepmom!"

~ Simone S.

I realized I was a STEPmom the moment it got hard. Meaning, their mother hated me, kids were wild, and I felt out of place every time they curled up with their dad on the couch. I realized I was a stepMOM when I remained stable, the kids and I formed bonds that nothing and no one can break, and I was happy to let them have "dad" time because I actually needed a break from the time they wanted to spend with me. I'd tell any stepmom of young kids to get through the first two years. It does get better and those heart pains aren't so painful.... a stepmom is a beautiful role and I only wish it had a better name that did it justice.

~ Melinda A.

When the custody schedule did not align with husband (then bf) work schedule. Had an entire day of bonding, every week, from VERY early on. Us girls now have an unbreakable bond and it's the best thing that has ever happened to me!!!

~ Dani J.

I really felt like I was a stepmom. When he asked about me frequently. He then told his dad he didn't want another mom but I could be is Bonus Mom. But for me , I came home late after hanging with the girls. I came in the house and heard him coughing . I went to two stores to get him some medicine. After I got home I gave it to him and listened out for him all night. Baby was knocked out of course lol

~ Vanessa N.

The moment my three year old step daughter and I had our first spat and I

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looked at her and said “ I will win” and I did totally I am now a step mom moment.

~ Ashley Y.

When I got upset that the bio mom was taking too long to plan graduation and prom so I tried to help but oh I'm just stepmom and bio mom decided to take the wheel because I wasn't the mom.

~ Madeline D.

The moment I realized it was when both my stepson and I cried when it was time for him to go back to his mom's house.

~ Van G.

This happened to me before I got married to my now husband. When his kiddos started calling me mom, even though they said their mom didn't want them to, and they still chose to call me mom because it made them happy that's when I realized I'm a stepmama!

~ Shelby M.

When I had to console her when a classmate called her momma fat.

I was like first of all she never seen your mother & secondly I'm damn sure not fat so she isn't talking about me. ☹️

~ Kaylan J.

Ummmm.. when she ran up to me and asked if she could give me a hug because she liked me and then lied and told her mama....I made her hug me ☹️☹️..her dad and nana had to vouch for me but then she apologized and told me she didn't want her mommy to feel bad about liking me.. I knew then she had accepted me as a bonus parent

~ Erica B.

THE MOMENT WHEN I KNEW I WAS A STEPMOM...

When it was Mother's Day 😞... One of the kids made it known I was a stepmom and not his real mom.

~ Le La

When my step son's grandfather passed he stayed right next to me through the entire funeral and repast. At one point his mom (her and my bf have a rocky co-parenting relationship) was looking for him and when she saw him with me she told him she was going home but that he was in good hands and she told me thank you. He and I have a great son/stepmom relationship we have fun, he talks my head off about everything especially girls, high school, and his feelings about the things in his life.

~ Rachel N.

The moment I naturally without a second thought picked up my bonus child's birthday gift out of a store the same way I did for my own children.

~ Amber N.

The first time I had to go to school for my stepson.

~ Yolanda B.

When I stopped being able to carry my little pocketbooks and started buying tote bags. I had to fit more people's lives, toys, schedules changes of clothes etc into my purse.

~ Kadiesha E.

When Stepdaughter's period came. 😊

~ Rachelle A.

I think it hit me when she came to me for dating advice. She was 14 at the time and my oldest was only 7 so this was all new to me.

~ Toya V.

THE MOMENT WHEN I KNEW I WAS A STEPMOM...

When I argued with a man at a bowling alley for giving my baby (SD) bowling shoes that were torn on the inside and thus hurt her feet. I went off like she was my child. I knew then it was real. I'm not her mommy but she is damn sure my baby too.

~ Nichole M.

When I started finding legos and rocks in my shoes...my stepson is a jokester just like his dad. It really sank in when we planned and went on our first family vacation.

Lindsey A.

I realized it over night my husband had an overnight before he became CP & I woke up with a kid in my bed. I was so upset because no one asked me if that was cool or how I felt having a kid that wasn't mine the bed I was so used to just sharing with dh. I freaked out, then it started hitting me that I was a SM.

~ Jessica R.

When I would take off from work, drive 75 min to her school to eat lunch for 30 min. Then go back to work. Those days. LOL. Oh you mines.

~ Kamilah R.

I was SO extra at her kindergarten graduation 😊😊 went back stage and flat ironed her hair again half way thru to make sure she SLAYED! I knew it was real. When i passed up something for myself to get her some stuff. When i started finding barbies stuck between seats in my car. When she got sick and didn't want her dad she wanted me to stay up with her all night 😞 when she started asking for "just us time"...

~ Bre

When my step son's mother said "I have you as Stepmama in my phone" ☐

~ Tykeyah D.

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When he started bringing me flowers home from school, calling me "mommy", and drawing pictures of me/for me. Those were very precious moments that I'll never forget and wish we still had that relationship. I naturally included him and did for him as I did with my own.

~ Kelleigh F.

Aug 8th, DH was granted 50/50...Aug 10th, DH and I married...Aug 15th, we had our first full week with bonus son (who was 6 mo at the time)...It hit me when our second full week with my bonus soon came around. "I am a stepmom.... who is full fledged in the deep end of the pool of parenthood, straight out the gate of marriage....and we have 17.5 more years to go." This was 11 years ago.

~ Amy B.

The day baby girl called me mommy. Too shocked. ♥♥♥♥♥☐

~ Tawanna J.

My husband and I were dating at the time and just moved in together for a month. His twin boys mom met me 1 time from dropping them off so the third time she drop them off she never came back. They were 2 at the time didn't come back until they were about to turn 5. My husband works out of town Sunday through Thursday,so I had to put my big girl panties on LOL when they ask could they call me mama in a mother's day card our first year together😊.

~ Courtney M.

I've been married for 7 years and I still don't feel like I've had that moment.

~ Penny L.

When he called me mom the first time. up until that point he didn't call me anything (he was 2). One day he asked for something and said mom. also when his biomom had him call me on Mother's day ☐☐ We've come so far.

~ Renee S.

THE MOMENT WHEN I KNEW I WAS A STEPMOM...

When my oldest bonus daughter started calling me “Ma Angela”.
~ Angela M.

When she called to talk to me and not her Dad ☐☐
~ Cherayla H.

When they asked why they couldn't call me “mommy” because I do everything their friends' mothers do. (We compromised on Mama. Now they just tell people I'm their mother.)
~ Jessica R.

When I went out and bought bedding with his favorite superhero and included him in the plans for the kids room . Went shopping for school supplies for my kids and him as well. He was just part of the family
~ Sarah B.

When I loved them like I loved my own ♥
~ Denver J.

When I got asked for advice about a boy 😞
~ LeAndre G.

I got that "oh I'm really a stepmom" feeling when I went off on my family LOL my brother, sister and Uncle's were on Facebook talking and planning some things for the family and my brother said "I only have one nephew, so he's invited to everything" I went in with the quickness. My feelings were truly hurt because I never want kids to feel like they aren't a part of a family. They already don't see their Uncle on their Mom's side, live down the street from their Uncle on their Dad's side but he won't make time for them and I said I'll be danged if one more person mistreats them. That night I cried because of those words.

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Although to some, family doesn't have to accept your stepchildren, for me, they do and need to without showing favoritism. They didn't come from me but they are a part of me and they will be treated as such.

~ Christian H.

When we enrolled SS in preschool. We won full custody when he was 3 and enrolled him in preschool at my college, so I would do all the pick-ups and drop-offs. He couldn't understand why all the kids would call me his mom or say 'your mom's here!'. To him, 'mom' was just a title, not a role as BM has always come and gone as she pleased. Assigning the title of 'step-mom' made a lot more sense to him as far as my role in his life and made it easier to answer who I was to outsiders. He's 10 now and half the time will just say I'm his mom. His dad and I never married, it was just never a priority for either of us. A piece of paper won't define my role in this family, that was decided years ago. ♥

~ Veronique A.

When my husband told me that his ex said the kids want to call me Mom. 😊

~ Smiley

When BM said that holidays at my home were weird and was reconsidering allowing visitation because she wasn't sure HER culture was represented in MY home.

~ Maria M.

This happened when we started baby proofing my house. A space I had curated specifically for me and my needs over the years and then suddenly realized mid process that this wasn't just MY home anymore.

~ Alexis B.

Not married yet but last week dropping off bonus baby girl at school and she yelled "I love you see you later!" Running to class ♥

~ Xiomara M.

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I don't think I've had "that" moment just yet however, I feel it getting really close. For example, my boyfriend, his son & I went to the movies to see Shazam. For a 7 year old, that movie was kinda creepy & his little self was scared of the creatures in the movie so instead of jumping on to his dad (he was sitting in the middle of us two) he leaned into me & buried his face into me when scary scenes came on. I comforted him but couldn't believe he jumped onto me instead of his favorite person in the world, LOL. My boyfriend's daughter who hasn't been around a whole lot, cried last weekend because she couldn't come with me home. I was so shocked! LOL. Finally, Mother's Day...his son's mother asked him what he was doing for me on Mother's Day. He was confused because I'm not a mother, however after she explained to him the role I play in their son's life I deserve a Mother's Day gift as well...so when we linked up he explained all that was said & told me he realized that I am a mommy too & I deserve to be celebrated. IDK if this validates it for me, I think I'm still waiting for a specific moment where I know deep down inside..."yeah, this is it."

~ I'mani C.

Our situation was... fast. We had been "seeing" each other for about a year. Started dating September, moved in November (he was still a weekend dad with a couple visits a week. We got immediate care of his 2 littles in December. We had lived together a year me taking care of all our kiddos. Then engaged a year and now married almost 3 years. They were 4 and 6, now 9 and 11 and I still have those holy crap moments that this is our life. I carry all titles. Mom. Stepmom. Extra mom. Bonus mom. Mommy. Like a mom. ~ Beth.

There are some blissful moments when things are all right in our world and it's an honor to even be able to play such a part in their lives.. there are also those "other-times" where I just hold on for dear life until the next blissful moment and remind myself on the long run, they are going to be able to reflect who had always been in that corner for them.

~ Bethany Z.

THE MOMENT WHEN I KNEW I WAS A STEPMOM...

When I had to enroll my SS in kindergarten and apply for healthcare because BM would not do it.

~ Angela H.

When my Stepkids haven't said the greeting of the day to me in over 4 years and no one else sees a problem with this, including DH and I'm told to be the bigger person. Mind you try speak to everyone else except me.

~ Kim D.

My step son and I are only 12 years apart. I have a little brother that's his age so in my vows to him (we did vows to our kids at the wedding) I told him I would still cringe every time he used the word step mom. Everyone laughed. So he started telling people I was his mom ☐. Well played child well played 😊

~ Katie B.

DH was always a NCP. His children visited and I spent some time with them but primarily let DH parent. I was content to stay in the background and let him bond with his kids. I realized I was REALLY a stepmom when my then 13 yo stepson moved in with his dad and I. Until then, I was just dad's wife. I was always distantly kind to my stepson but I wasn't bonded to him. When he moved in, suddenly I was cooking meals for him, taking him shopping, talking to his teachers, and helping with homework. I was actually a STEPMOM.

~ Vikkee D.

ABOUT NAJA...

Naja Hall is a Master Stepfamily Coach and the founder of Blended and Black, a diverse, solution-based platform dedicated to mending and blending Step families. As a change agent, she has built one of the most recognizable brands in the blended family niche. In under 3 years, the Blended and Black community has grown an organic following of over 50K+, including the 8000 member Blended and Black Facebook Support Group! Naja sees the family as the singular most important system in our society. And with over 50% of today's modern families including partners who have remarried or recoupled, she aims to provide resources that reshape the misconceptions that prevent members of step families from simply being happy.

She provides families and individuals the tools by which they can learn to form a more cohesive unit, free of the drama that usually surrounds divorce, separation and remarriage. Aside from servicing clients as a full-time Family Life Coach, Naja recently published her first book, *Girl, Bye! She's Not Going Anywhere. Neither Are You.* Blended and Black has a team of volunteer Ambassadors that are readily available for community members in critical situations. Pre-packaged courses are also available to individuals and institutions. Blended and Black is focused on creating content that will help reshape what family, love, mental health and relationships look like for its community. The blog and social media pushes out dozens of daily posts. Also Blended and Black TV produces high quality, engaging video content and is currently working on a scripted web series. Naja also contributes weekly How-To videos for Blended and Black TV. Naja earned a Bachelors from the University of Tennessee in Family and Consumer Sciences. She is an active member of the National Council of Family Relations, the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and the American Bar Association as a Dispute Resolution Associate.



Naja is a Stepmom of 3 and she and her Husband, Tony and their family spend their time between New York City and South Beach.



I'm Naja Hall, a Master Stepfamily Coach and I am a proud Stepmother. In the beginning of my journey, however, conflict, frustration and the negative social stigma that plagues the stepmom community kept me from wearing my title with pride. It was a long, bumpy road before I joined #TeamUnbothered and one of my missions is to equip girls like us with the tools to take back our peace of mind, maintain happy relationships and be present for life's greatest joys.

VIPStepmom is created with YOU in mind. Every video I've shot, eBook I've written, interview I've conducted and audio I have recorded has been carefully curated for YOU! This is so special because this content will not be shared publicly on the web. I am to help you explore your essence and take control of your situation and that it just best NOT done in front of an audience. I'm bringing the experts, the content and the tribe to YOU. I'll See You On The Other Side.

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