



# The Ties That Bind

HOW DID THIS HIGH-PROFILE COUPLE SURVIVE THE  
“REALITY TV RELATIONSHIP CURSE?”

photos by mike ho text by dove clark

Multi-platinum recording artist Kid Ink and his wife Asiah Collins created a stir in the hip-hop community in 2017 when Asiah appeared on the E! TV reality series *The Platinum Life*. The vivacious beauty had always been a behind-the-scenes partner in her man's career, while Kid Ink created a slew of hits, including chart-busting collaborations with the likes of Chris Brown, Fetty Wap and Usher. Would reality TV and newfound fame for Asiah be the end of a love-filled decade for the duo?

Thankfully for the couple, who are married and parents to a young daughter, the “curse” of reality television didn't strike them down. Throughout the experience, Asiah actually maintained her dignity and took skills of co-managing Kid Ink's merchandising and the discipline of balancing family life to the next level as she completed culinary school. Meanwhile, Kid Ink began to slowly re-emerge with new music after a rather lengthy hiatus—a break he'd taken despite garnering those platinum-selling hits and hundreds of millions of plays on YouTube. **INKED** Mag sat down for a discussion with Kid Ink and Asiah to learn more about their journey and growth through fame, family and, of course, ink.







**What inspires you to take your relationship to the next level?**

**Kid Ink:** Me, personally, probably subconsciously I did not want to be in the same situation as my parents. My father was gone when I was five, but even before he went to jail he wasn't with my mom.

**Asiah:** Same here. My mom wasn't married until I was an adult and I didn't have a lot of examples of a two-parent household or marriage growing up. My mom was a single mom with four kids. We understand each other better than anyone else could because of that.

**How did you manage the created drama and pressures of reality TV?**

**Asiah:** I don't think that was an issue for us. Going into it, of course, I had reservations. You think about how everyone says there's a reality TV curse on relationships. We've never really ever hidden things from each other. So that wasn't something that really affected us.

**Do you feel the show fast-tracked your career, or do you feel you had to work harder to show that you were legit?**

**Asiah:** I don't think I had to fight harder to prove anything to anyone else. I had to fight harder to prove to myself how much I wanted it. I had to decide what was a priority to me: doing the show or finishing culinary school and balancing that with being away from my daughter because prior to that, it was only me and Aislin. I didn't really feel like I had to prove anything to anyone else.

**What is it like raising kids in the social media age? And how do you intend to deal with things if they approach you about being in the entertainment business?**

**Kid Ink:** Anything as far as entertainment or what she wants to do with her life... I say give everything a try. I don't pressure anything. You could go ahead and try, succeed and fail, learn your lessons, and see if you really have a love for it.

**Ink, what's next for you?**

**Kid Ink:** The team of people around me understands the new place we're going with the music and in general with the brand Kid Ink, and how we're gonna do the next wave around. Musically, I'm excited. I think I'm finally taking some steps in breaking through the TV and movie world with all these tattoos. It's definitely a struggle with that. I gotta get a lot of makeup done. I think at the end of the day that goes with the skill of acting, so I gotta really take that seriously if that's what I want to do too.

**Ink, as far as your tattoos, is there anything that you haven't done yet that you want to do? If so, why and where?**

**Kid Ink:** As much as people think I'm fully covered up, it's a lot of stuff that I haven't dived into. I'm at the point now where I look at the armpit area, back of the knees, front of the knees... I still have two thighs I have to get done. I don't think I'm ready to hit the feet.

**Asiah:** Babe, you have nice feet. You shouldn't hide them. [laughs]

**What do you say if your daughter says "I want to get a tattoo?"**

**Asiah:** Oh my God. We still don't know what to do about that! [laughs]

**Kid Ink:** For me, personally, she's just gonna have to ask. It's never gonna be influenced on her. Growing up, I was the one in my family that had more than three tattoos. My mom had, like, three or four tattoos but they were all hidden.

**Asiah:** Same with me. On my 16th birthday my mom took me to get a matching tattoo with her. In her mind she thought by doing that I would just get it out of my system and over it [laughs] Little did she know that I would be sleeved up four years later, so it kind of backfired on her. I don't know. I guess we'll cross that bridge when we're there.

**What do each of you want people to know most about you at this stage of your life?**

**Kid Ink:** That we're still having fun but it's brand new. We always want something new, different and exciting to go on, and I think that's what keeps everything fresh.

**Asiah:** I want people to know that as young women you can do it all. You do have to do things at your own pace and that's okay. I think I felt a lot of pressure from people that I had to have it all figured out and be working toward goals so early in life, and maybe I wasn't ready at that time. But you can have everything you desire and want, and you could go after it when it's the right time for you.

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