



21st Knot

Standard Edition

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Year End Review

At least once every year I make sure to do a review of all my projects. I fix things that I'd been meaning to fix, add things that I've been meaning to add, and change things that I've been meaning to change. For those of you who've been around long enough, you've seen the blog and newsletter transform each year into what they are today, and hopefully you agree they've been improving.

But this year, as I was reviewing my personal website (mabogunje.net), I realised something wonderful: that now, between my [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [GitHub](#), [DeviantArt](#) profiles, and [The Red String](#), it had become mostly **obsolete!** So when next you stop by my website, you will find a landing page that directs you to the appropriate profile for your search... and that's good news because it means less work for me. So stop by and check it out. Feel free to leave a comment in the [guestbook](#) with what you think.

Speaking of year end reviews, We're owing you all a special edition for 2012. A whole 9 yards special [like I did in 2011](#). Not sure when I'll be done with it, but I've already picked out the pieces. So that's something to look forward to.

A Deviant Artist

Some of you may already be familiar with [deviantArt.com](https://www.deviantart.com) and what it's for, but for the rest, let me give you a brief introduction.

deviantArt was created to **entertain, inspire, and empower** the artist in all of us. Founded in August 2000, deviantArt is the **largest social network for artists** and art enthusiasts with over 24 million registered members, attracting 65 million unique visitors per month.

- **DeviantArt.com**

I only just recently started actively using my dA account (which I've had for over a year now), and the more I use it the more I fall in love with it! So I decided to host all my art on there instead of on my website.

The ability to get instant feedback on your creations from people all over the world is something that I think is indispensable for any artist, not to mention the constant interaction with other artists like yourself. Personally, I've become so addicted, that it's rivalling Facebook for the top position.

A Deviant Artist

For those of you who are fans of [The Red String](#), [The Duet](#), or maybe you've read some of my works in progress (like [Bloodlust](#)), this is **great news!** Because you no longer have to wait till the next time I publish to see my poems, or when I finally finish to read my works in progress!

They will all be made available publicly as I create them (and if you are a member of deviantArt, you can like, comment, and even download copies for yourselves. Truly I don't think I can give my fans a better Christmas gift than that.

On that note, *my birthday* was this November! Thanks to all who sent me messages both here and elsewhere. I really appreciated it. For my gift to myself, I decided to get a 2yr [paid membership to deviantArt](#). It was a 2 for 1 deal, so at the very least you'll be able to follow my artistic growth for the next 23 months. Isn't that great?



One Piece of Profundity

There are times when you watch a movie, or a show, and you just get a really profound message from it. In my case, this happened while I was watching **episode 563** of **One Piece**. To get the full impact, you would have to have been following the entire arc but for those unfamiliar with the anime, here's the specific quote that got my bells ringing.



Hody is a monster who was brought to life by our environment! The New Merman Pirates are a group of monsters created from an ancient grudge. A grudge they still bear from their ancestors because they are afraid a day will come when the grudge will be proven wrong and the plight of their ancestors forgotten. So they've convinced themselves it's right in order to justify their atrocities. Their hatred is neither rooted in their experiences nor their morals. It is a hatred without substance!

One Piece of Profundity

“

It is a hatred without substance!

Whoever wrote those lines must be a genius as I have never heard a description of prejudice as profound! Basically, through the episode and those leading up to it, a simple lesson was taught. Prejudice can be inherited. People don't always hate you for you. Racism isn't always executed by people who have a reason to hate you, neither is any other kind of prejudice always for an understandable reason.

This is why groups like the KKK and Nazi supremacists exist! And the fact that fans of One Piece of all ages, from all over the world, will receive this message, blows my mind! Now you can see why this anime holds a position in my **Top 5**.

Clown Ninja

Most women desire someone who makes them laugh and also feel safe, so basically a clown ninja.

9GAG.COM/GAG/5441818

I stumbled upon this meme some time ago, and as soon as I saw it, I thought to myself: “**True!** *That is exactly what women want!*”

Then I immediately thought of the movie by the same name: **What Women Want**, and it occurred to me that for all the posts I've written on **relationships**, I've never really broached the topic. Yet as with most relationship related topics, I do have an opinion... and this meme (unlike the movie) quite aptly summarized it.

Clown Ninja

Many women mourn the death of the perfect gentleman. That old school type who tipped his hat and opened doors. Many will say that chivalry is dead, no one pulls out the chair or shows etiquette anymore. But no matter how much women complain about it, the lack of a chivalrous disposure never seems to be a deal breaker.

Times have changed and nowadays society's requirements for “a prince charming” no longer include the staples of noble social graces. In fact these days, some women prefer to open their own doors. I would even go as far as to say that women never *really* valued those chivalrous social airs as highly as they made out, but that *society* did.

It would certainly explain the myriad romance novels about women running away with vagabonds to live happily ever after, but I digress...

Clown Ninja

You see, women **love** being treated like queens and princesses but they don't truly value it. What they actually value, is happiness. The difference being that happiness can be given in many ways, while acting like a gentleman has a strict set of habits and duties attached to it (that may not necessarily always bring them happiness).

However humour and laughter are a sure fire ways to bring a smile to any loved ones face... and protection (though only necessary occasionally), will make a woman happy to have you by her side. Of course relationships go much deeper than that but if there's one thing I can say for sure, it's that you've got no chance with a woman if you can't *at least* make her laugh.

So the clown is more important than the ninja, because you'll only need to protect, every once in a while. Women *want* a clownNinja... But I think men can get away with *just being clowns*. 😊

Laugh Factory

'T is now the season to be jolly, and what's more jolly than comedy? **Nothing!** So allow me to introduce you to **Laugh Factory**. They are a stand-up comedy club in Los Angeles that has featured (and still features) some of the biggest names in the industry over the years. A few months ago, they **released a video streaming app for the Playstation 3**, and that was my introduction to **laughter on demand**.

Unfortunately however, the **free trial period** ended on December 1st, and it is now a subscription service. But the fee is only **\$3 per month** if you can afford a few laughs.

For those who cannot, there is always the **LaughFactory YouTube Channel** and/or you can Google the individual comedians. But the beauty of LaughFactory, is that you get to see new and upcoming comedians that you may never see otherwise (on a regular basis). **So check them out.** Perhaps you'll have a good laugh too. 😄

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The Red String is a monthly newsletter owned, managed, run, and mostly written by **Damola Mabogunje**. He has been at it since September 2010 and while it is free for all to read and share, he would be very, in fact not just very, **extremely** pissed off if anyone should copy or plagiarize his work.

So please don't. I don't want to sue anybody.