

“The Ratchets”

Mo Quick

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The Ratchets moved out the hood, but the hood did not move out of them. Will this family ever adjust to suburban life?

“The Ratchets”

- Mo Quick

The Ratchets are a family from the ghetto of South West Atlanta; they have just recently made the transition to the suburbs of Smyrna Vinings. There's Daddy Ratchet, Mama Ratchet, Raven and Raynell. You can take the family out of the hood, but you can not take the hood out of the family. The Ratchets are having a very difficult time making the transition from living in the SWATS, to living in COBB. A difficult time indeed; well, all but Daddy Ratchet. See Daddy Ratchet has been preparing for this his whole life. Coming from a family deeply rooted in poverty and generational curses, Daddy Ratchet has always vowed to become better than his surroundings and to one day, move his momma out of the hood. Funny enough, when he was actually able to move his Mom, she wouldn't go! However his family, had no choice! Daddy Ratchet tried convincing Mama Ratchet that even though the hood may be comfortable and all too familiar, they should aspire to have more; and when that didn't work, Daddy just stopped paying the bills at the old house, forcing Mama Ratchet to pack up everything they owned, and move all the way up I-285, away from everyone, and everything they knew.

Mama Ratchet, had no idea what she was in for; she constantly struggles living this new life her husband envisions. This show is mainly centered around Daddy Ratchet, and the resistance he faces from his family, as he continuously tries to broaden their horizons; and everyday, he continues his fight!

Writer's Thoughts

So for me, it was all about the name. The word Ratchet has such a negative connotation behind it; everyone associates ratchet with ghetto beyond reason, from the songs, to everyday lingo, there's just a constant building of negativity, around the word Ratchet. Then we have the other side of life. Every black person I know can relate in some way to this word; ratchet. Which brings me to the conclusion, that ratchet is negative and is directly associated with black people. So my idea was to change the way we see the word, in turn changing the way we see black people. I do mean to include other races as well, when referring to the act of change; however, I am more so referring to the black culture specifically. I hope to change the way we see ourselves. I want each of us to know, that your beginnings do not dictate our ends. Being born in, or without, a certain stature, doesn't mean we deserve less, nor do we deserve more; nor is anything unreachable, in that regard. We may be looked at as 'ratchet,' even within our own community, but just because you are, does not mean, you will always be.

My goal for The Ratchets, is to allow every black person to see a bit of themselves in this family; to be able to identify the weaknesses and map out the strengths. I hope a lot of self identifying will take place, and self reflection will matriculate after the credits have come to a close.

I would also like for other races to see the humanity in the black man, and in the black family. I hope getting a deeper look into what our family's go through in a more relatable and humorous setting, would bring forth a different perspective when they see a black man, woman, or child out in the world; I hope to change the altered vision of a 'thug,' a 'broken woman,' or an 'uncared for child.' These labels hurt my community, and cause a lack of respect displayed by other cultures, and self hate in our own communities.

The Ratchets is my chance to take my culture into my own hands, and to show the world my experiences, and what my culture looks, sounds, and feels like to me.

- Mo Quick

Characters

Chaderrick “Daddy” Ratchet - Daddy Ratchet is tall, dark, and handsome. He’s in his early 40’s, his hair is cut into a low buzz, he wears beige khaki’s, and a polo style shirt with a brown belt. He always speaks in very proper English. Daddy Ratchet is constantly getting picked on by the family for wanting to better himself, and his family. He works as a Luxury Car Salesmen, in a Luxury dealership; amongst many other business schemes, and believes in saving every penny. Daddy Ratchet’s main goal in life is to build generational wealth for his children and his children’s children, and so forth, and so on. Daddy Ratchet truly believes that financial freedom is the key to breaking generations of curses.

Missy “Mama” Ratchet - Missy Ratchet is a short brown woman, in her late 30’s, who is always working on herself; manicuring, pedicuring, doing her own hair, waist training, and anything else that can turn her “fine as wine.” Her work does not go in vein; Missy is an attractive woman with glowing brown skin, shiny white teeth, a little waist, a big butt, and a 36C cup. She is overly ghetto FAB-U-Lous hunny! She wears a hot pink body suit, with fur on the collar, long fabulous finger nails, alternating hair styles, and hot pink red bottoms (that she paints red herself). She is self-focused, with no job. Many see Mama Ratchet as a lazy, uneducated, self absorbed woman with no aspirations; not knowing that before Mama had Raynell she was well on her way to getting her Bachelors in Political Science, with hopes of becoming a lawyer. Mama’s postpartum trauma led her to feelings of worthlessness she she’d never really been able to shake.

Raven “Ray” Ratchet - Raven “Ray” Ratchet is a pretty brown skin, 14-year-old girl. Ray wears her hair in two high lime green ponytails. Her hair is extremely long and stretches to her butt. Her eyebrows are lime green as well. She wears a mini skirt, sneakers, and pink shirt, with a rainbow harness, and gold buckle. Raven loves to not only look good, but smell good too. Her favorite beautifier is her Vicky Secrets Sweet

Pea Body Mist. She sprays it all the time, over herself, and whoever is around; whenever she deems it necessary. She also has a very loud and has a bold opinion about everything. Raven Ratchet is a head strong young woman, who knows who she is, and knows how far she's willing to go in any situation; the girl, knows her limits. Raven loves to have a good time with her friends and loves to talk to boys.

Raynell "Ray Ray" Ratchet - Raynell Ratchet is a chocolate skin, 16 year old, Football player; whose always in basketball shorts, a hoodie, and flip flops. He stays with a high top fade, and his bottom grill. He is very chill and laid back, and he often disregards his father, and glorifies his uncle; Big Unc. Besides food, Ray Ray loves getting to the money, playing football, and dreaming about girls. Raynell spends most of his time dreaming about them, because he doesn't actually have the courage to talk to the women he's honestly attracted to; instead he settles for the "5's" that talk to him.

Glam Ma Ratchet - Glam Ma is a hot mess! She's a small woman, with a petite shape. Glam Ma has pretty brown skin, a huge butt, and one gold cap on the bottom row of her teeth. On most days, her hair is in a snatch back high pony, but on special occasions, she brings out her wig. She enjoys an array of long fingernail designs, and you will never catch her without out her "Glam Ma" T-shirt. The thing about Glam is, no one knows where she gets her money from. She's suspected to be on welfare, but claims to be retired; however, no one knows from where. Glam Ma stays pushing new luxury cars, and loves her online shopping. Glam Ma is infamous for popping up unexpectedly, and asking for "a little something," to get her by. She's also infamous for cuffing an array of fine bachelors, who love spending their checks on "The Glam."

Big Unc Ratchet - Big Unc is a smooth, old school playa, with track suits for days. Big Unc is always teaching Raynell different scams, trying to help him "Boss Up." Big Unc is known to claim "he aint got it," but flexes all of his cars, clothes, and jewelry. Big Unc is Daddy Ratchet's older brother, and loves to remind him of it, every chance he gets.

Mr. Festus - Mr. Festus is Glam Ma's 'on again/off again' boyfriend. He is tall, broad shouldered, dark, African man, in his late 50's. He is well dressed; he wears a black blazer, white collar-button down shirt, dark blue jeans, and a big belt buckle. Mr. Festus come from a family of wealth and respect; so he does not tolerate foolishness.

Rodney - Rodney is Raven's no good situation. Rodney is a freshman in college and is still dating in his old high school. Rodney wants one thing; to smash Raven.

Tasha - Tasha is a vibrant 14 year old with a lot of energy! She is Mama Ratchet's, sister's, daughter. Tasha was born and raised in NY and everything about her screams New York City. She is Raven's favorite cousin, and shares all of her interests; boys, boys, boys, and Sweet Pea body mist!

Story World

Foyer

The front door is where all the best action happens. This is where we meet almost all of our guest, and share the first exchanges. You never know who's coming to the Ratchet's door, on any given day, at any given moment!

Living Room

In the living room is where you will most likely find Raven and Raynell. The living room and Mama and Daddy's room are the only two places in the house with a TV. According to Daddy Ratchet, TV is, and will always be, an idiot box; and he refuses to be the cause of his only two children becoming idiots. Therefore, Raven and Raynell congregate in the living room, because of course, it's much less likely for them to become idiots in the living room.

The living room is very bright, with a high ceiling. There is a long blue couch in the middle of the room sitting horizontally across from the 75" TV, and two black massage chairs, one sitting on each side of the long couch. The long couch is in direct line with the foyer; giving whoever is seated on the end closest to the foyer, an immediate privy to who's at the door.

Kitchen/Dining Room

The kitchen is where you will find the family together as a whole the most often, because it is connected to the dining room. Daddy Ratchet tries as much as he can to get his family together for dinner daily; but for some reason Mama Ratchet shows resistance every chance she gets!

The kitchen is definitely one of Mama Ratchets favorite places to be, and not because she loves cooking so much. Mama Ratchet uses the island to help her paint her toes. She props her foot up on the island, as she sits on the counter adjacent, while stretching her leg. Daddy Ratchet is often annoyed by the sight, and the smell, of Mama Ratchet painting her toes on the kitchen counter.

The kitchen is nicely sized, with more cabinets than anyone could know what to do with. There is an island in the middle that separates the sink and the refrigerator, where the stove top sits comfortably. The dining room table is at the end of the isle, connected by the same stone.

Fancy Dining Room

The Ratchets love entertaining guest, and the Fancy Dining Room is reserved especially for such. With their Fancy Dining Room, they may look the part of an upscale family, having a fancy dinner party, in their Fancy Dining Room, but surely, after the conversation gets rolling, there will be no question to how hood this family truly is; well, all but Daddy Ratchet. Daddy Ratchet will maintain his poise, and his level of decency, so along as anybody who is not in his immediate circle, be in the house. However, Daddy Ratchet is sure to snap when in the covet of his own home.

The Fancy Dining Room does not disappoint, every thing about this room screams fancy. There are lush fake flowers and plants all over the room, with a gold and crystal chandelier thing about the ceiling. The China is to die for, and the table is all marble, with plush seating arrangements to compliment.

Mama/Daddy's Room

Mama and Daddy have been together since they were childhood sweethearts. Though they definitely grew in opposite paths personality wise, they shared the love for one another, and stayed true to their feelings, and to each other . So even though their bedroom is usually filled with a lot of yelling and bickering, it's also filled with a lot of love.

This is the place where Mama and Daddy are able to yell and tear each others throats out, without caring if the kids can hear them or not, or wondering if their fighting is having a negative impact on their children. Daddy got their room sound proofed when they first moved in, so they could make love as loud as they wanted. Though lately, it's been used to argue as loud as they want.

Mama and Daddy's room is decorated in the finest bedding. They have a huge plush royal blue bed, and 55" TV mounted over their fireplace. With fine drapes as curtains, gorgeous plush rugs, and a fine sitting area to drool over; Mama and Daddy's room could have been made for royalty.

Raven's Room

Raven's room is infamous for being used to do something she has no business. In the first episode she was caught taking a nude picture of herself by her mom. This adolescent behavior carries throughout the seasons and eventually her door is taken off by her dad.

The walls in Ravens room are light blue and her furniture and accessories are hot pink. She has a hot pink fur rug, and a hot pink canopy styled bed, with no canopy. She has cute Etsy and Pinterest decorations on her walls, and a huge stylish mirror on floor, leaning against her wall.

Raynell's Room

Raynells Room looks as though its not attached to the rest of the house at all; as though they picked it up from Adamsville and sat it in the home in Vinnings. His blinds are missing a few rows, his curtain is an old hand towel, his carpet is matted, stained, and beyond dirty; he has old food in bowls and plates, and his dirty clothes 'pile' is grossly over grown; his room smells heavily of old gym socks. Raynell's room is reflection of how he feels in the inside, and is just as simple as he is. He's got his bed, his lamp, and his dresser.

Season 1 Overview

In season one we meet The Ratchets. We really get to know who they are as individuals and what makes them The Ratchets as a whole. We understand some of their core family values, we laugh through their pains, and begin to understand more about where they come from, and where they are headed.

In the first episode you get to meet Daddy Ratchet and Mama Ratchet. Their relationship is a mystery to most; no one truly understands how two very different people, ended up together, and throughout the episode, it will only bid you to question even more.

You will also meet Raven and Raynell; the only two children of Daddy and Mama. As the season carries, you meet more of the family, like Glam-Ma. Grandparents are known for pinching pennies. Glam-Ma Ratchet, is known for pinching dollars; out of everyone else's pockets. And she's been around for ever, so she's hip to everything; nothing gets by Glam-Ma. If you ask Glam-Ma her best feature is her charm. Glam is known for hooking all sorts of men, whom she uses for all sorts of things. In the early episodes we meet her first victim, Mr. Festus. The first time the family is introduced to Mr. Festus, Glam-Ma confused the hell out of everyone, sounding like she was from West Africa, and not West Atlanta. Earlier that day Glam-Ma and Mama Ratchet got into it, when Glam-Ma said to Mama Ratchet, "you thought you did something when you hooked my son, well you just wait and see what I'm bouta do!" Then Mr. Festus turned up later that night for dinner; just an unfortunate African man who was caught in a web of Glam-Ma's trickery and lies. Even though Glam-Ma might have hooked him, her family just might have been ratchet enough to run him away, before she even got her bills paid!

Daddy Ratchet's brother, Big Unc Ratchet is always the least expected and the most uninvited. He pops in a few times throughout the season, to lend a helping hand, in taking Daddy Ratchet's family back a few steps, by polluting the mind of his 16 year

old son, Raynell. Raynell looks up to his uncle and always welcomes his uncle's, no good money juugs.

You not only meet the family here in Atlanta, Ga., but in Season 1, you also get a chance to meet the NY cousin, Tasha. Tasha is the person who all Atlantians hate. The one who can't stop saying how great NY is, the one with the timbs on in the summer; you know, the one who swears, that everybody is their "son!" Tasha's visit helps set the tone for Season 1, as we learn more about Raven as an individual character; and more about her and Raynell's relationship.

In season 1 you meet all sorts of family members, and truly begin to love on The Ratchets, as you relate to their struggles, and get excited for their successes. Mama Ratchet battles Daddy Ratchet, herself, and a huge corporation in her lawsuit, that almost sends her to jail. Raven Ratchet battles her inner demons, as she wards off no good Rodney, and his sick sense of ownership for her body. Raynell is often getting swayed by his uncle to follow a path that he knows leads to destruction, but at the same time he doesn't want to be labeled "a lame" like his dad. And poor Daddy Ratchet, carrying his entire family on his back, while slaying generational curse, after curse.

Season 1 Episode Summaries

Episode 1: Meet the Ratchets

In this episode you get to meet Daddy Ratchet and Mama Ratchet. The dynamic between them has a very negative tone. We find out that Daddy works all day, and Mama stays at home; definitely a tinge of resentment when we hear Daddy refer to their routine in their first on screen fight. And Mama is not your typical “Stepford Wife” either, she appears to be lazy and self centered, because she doesn’t take care of her house; but she does take care of herself, very well. We find out all of these things in the first five minutes of Episode 1. The episode begins with Daddy coming home, hungry, expecting to see dinner on the table waiting for him, and then he grows angry when he finds no food, a dirty house, and hungry children. This dynamic stays constant in this episode; Daddy wanting more from Mama, and Mama selfishly showing no regard. Raven and Raynell are introduced in this episode as well; we see them often receiving the cross fires from their parents back and forth. In this episode we learn a lot about Raven, but not so much Raynell. We learn that Raven is romantically involved with a young man named Rodney. We find out that Rodney wants her to go against her morals and send him sexual pics. As the episode winds down, we leave The Ratchets on a cliff; Mama Ratchet walks in on Raven Ratchet taking a scandalous mirror pic, to presumably send to no good Rodney, holding us to the next episode, to find out what happens to Raven.

Episode 2: HELL NO Glam- Ma!

Grandparents are known for pinching pennies. Glam-Ma Ratchet, is known for pinching dollars; out of everyone else’s pockets. In this episode you will meet a new member of the Ratchet family, Glam-Ma Ratchet. Glam-Ma is Daddy Ratchet’s mother; she will surely be a crowd favorite. Glam-Ma is very hilarious, relatable, she keeps it real, gives great advice, and goes to the end to get it done! Episode 2 begins with a knock at the door. The room scatters when Daddy says the words “Glam-Ma.” Glam-

Ma is known to ask for things, so it's always good to stay out the way. Going from person to person, Glam Ma tries all the tricks she can, to get money out of everyone. She was unsuccessful, and in the end threatens Mama Ratchet with the return of her paid man.

Episode 3: Glam's New Man

This is by far one of my personal favorite episodes! In Episode 3 we see Glam Ma put on quite the performance. When introduced to her new man, the family is also introduced to a new Glam-Ma. Glam-Ma shows up to dinner in full African attire, accent included. Throughout the episode, Daddy Ratchet is trying to trick his mother into telling the truth about her heritage to her date, Mr. Festus. In the end, Mr. Festus is outraged at the entire family's behavior; and still believes Glam-Ma to be his African Queen.

Episode 4: I Aint Ya "Son"

The Ratchets are from the South; Atlanta, Ga. Their cousin Tasha is from the North; New York, New York. When the North visits the South; hold on to your Timbs! You're in for quite a bumpy ride. Tasha shows up on The Ratchets doorstep, hours early, and completely unexpected. Mama Ratchet counts the seconds until Raven and Raynell return from school, to entertain their cousin, and to keep her out of Mama Ratchet's hair. When the two return from school to find their cousin in the living room, we learn that Raven and Tasha are very close, while Raynell and Tasha are much like Raynell and Raven; tolerable at best. Raven and Tasha get in to a bit of trouble with Rodney this episode, when trying to find a ride to a kickback at Raven's friend's house.

Episode 5: The Juug Master

Big Unc Ratchet is always working on new ways to "get to da money;" His nephew Raynell, is always eager to learn. However, Daddy Ratchet isn't having any of that mess in his house! There are so many different dynamics at play this episode. We meet Big Unc Ratchet for the first time, and we see just how he and his brother

Daddy Ratchet have such little respect for each other's way of making money. We do see however, the love Raynell has for his Big Unc and how much he aspires to be like him, and to please him. The audience will naturally grow curious as to why Raynell does not aspire to be more like his father, and how Daddy and Big Unc Ratchet grew to be so different.

Episode 6: Mama's Suin the Sto!

More times than not, when a black person is wronged by a company, they cuss them out, and vow never to spend money with them again. When Mama Ratchet is wronged, she does it the "white folks way," and "sues them for everything they have!" In this Episode we learn a heck of a whole lot more about Mama Ratchets background, and how her and Daddy ended up together, when everyone swears they are so different. Mama Ratchet was out at the grocery store when she slip, fell, and had to be taken to the emergency room. We then find out that Mama Ratchet used to be in school for Political Science, and had aspirations of becoming a lawyer. Through this episode she gets back to doing what she loves while trying to go against the big corporations in her Injury case.

Season 2 Overview

As the Ratchets progress into Season 2, the audience will meet more of the Ratchet family! Early in the season, Glam Ma is in charge of putting together the annual Ratchet Reunion, with Mama Ratchet by her side; forcibly. Glam-Ma and Mama Ratchet throw the most Ratchet Reunion the world has ever seen! This sets the tone for the entire second season. When planning the reunion, things take a hilarious turn when Glam-Ma falls short when time to book the venue. Glam-ma goes against Daddy Ratchets back and sends out his address; the entire family ends up at Daddy Ratchet's house. After the hot ass mess, that was the Ratchet Reunion, is over, different family members, now knowing where Daddy Ratchet lives, begin popping up for one reason or another throughout the rest of the season. This season will be full of lively characters and great nostalgic moments.

Season 2 Episode Summaries

Episode 1: Glam-Ma's plannin' tha Reunion!!

Season 2 begins with Glam-Ma's usual, unannounced visit to the Ratchet home. She makes a "grand" announcement, that she 'the youngest of 5" being the most respectable, and the most responsible, has been given the duty, by the great aunts in Macon, Ga., to plan the first ever, Ratchet Reunion here in Atlanta! Glam-Ma takes her duties as organizer very seriously and enrolls Misty as her unwilling assistant. Glam-Ma runs Misty ragged with plans, and makes her in charge of collecting everyone's money; which grows to be a very grueling task that the audience will find hilariously relatable.

Episode 2: A Ratchet Reunion

When the day of the Ratchet Reunion finally arrives, Misty is exhausted. She literally looks drained and is moving slow as ever. Glam-Ma doesn't tell Daddy Ratchet she wasn't able to book a venue in time, and the entire family would be coming to his house, until there very last minute. Before Daddy Ratchet was able to object, erupt, or disagree in the slightest, the doorbell had already rung, and people were already showing up. In this episode you meet different Ratchets from all walks of life. Truly a hilariously relatable treat.

Episode 3: Where's My Plate

During the entire Reunion Daddy Ratchet guards a plate of beef short ribs, baked mac-n-cheese, yams, and kale greens. During this episode, Daddy Ratchet loses his mind after coming home from work, to find his plate missing. The entire episode Daddy Ratchet turns into Inspector Gadget, trying to unlock the mystery of his missing plate of leftovers.

Season 3 Overview

By Season 3 we're really getting to see Raven and Raynell grow up before our eyes. Mama and Daddy begin to find the love for each other once more. There will be many moments where we will be able to become apart of their journey. We will see Raynell, for the first time in his life, pull the baddest girl in the city; not just in his school. We'll see Raven desperately attempt to gain her drivers license. Mama and Daddy's sound proofed bedroom will begin to be used more for loud ass love making, and less for loud ass arguing. Raynell will grow to be a man who abandons his Uncle's Juug's, and gets his first job, in attempts to locking down his first woman. While Raven begins her defiant adolescence; stealing, dealing, and lying. There's so much in store for The Ratchet family. All the while, Daddy Ratchet does what he can to hold tight to his family. Hopeful for a better outcome, Daddy Ratchet perseveres.

Season 3 Episode Summaries

Episode 1: Raynell's Bags a Dime

Raynell has always had a false sense of confidence. Raynell's never excelled at sports, academics, art, or anything else that would cause a person to stand out, and to feel confident. However, he's always maintained a certain cockiness about himself. Deep down inside, no matter what his external may suggest, Raynell's never felt worthy of dating a certain caliber of woman, because he doesn't think of himself as a certain caliber of man. In this Episode we will see Raynell's true personality become exposed, when his nose is turned wide open by a particularly attractive female. They meet at the Ratchet's doorstep when Tiffany mistakenly rings the wrong doorbell. Tiffany is automatically attracted by the Ratchets nice home, and the Benz she sees parked outside. Raynell and Tiffany begin dating and Raynell turns a complete 360 for her.

Episode 2: Raven Can't Drive

In every young teen's life, the day comes when you strive to get your drivers license. Raven, decides that she wants that time to be now; even if she isn't quite ready. We see a real struggle of power in this episode between mother and daughter. As Raven grows older, she begins to test the limits of her mothers patience, with her acts of defiance. She decides to steal her parents car, and goes on a little joy ride, that lands her in a great deal of trouble, and her family in a huge financial mess.

Episode 3: A Ratchet Ass Yard Sale

Due to their daughters immaturities, The Ratchets find themselves in a financial mess and decide to have a yard sale. Everything was going according to plan until Glam-Ma got wind, and decides to invite the whole family. Glam-Ma thinks she's helping by bringing more things to sell, when really she turns a nice yard sale, in a nice community, to a junk sell, at a junk lot.