

Family



authors:

Nica Davidov
Nika Dubrovsky



Nuclear families

* Grandmothers and grandfathers also usually do not live with their adult children and grandchildren. Grandparents usually see their families on weekends and holidays, and spend vacations together.

** Grown-up children usually live apart from their parents. They have separate households, sometimes even before marriage (depending on the country they live in), and almost always once they are married.

In the Western model of family, we often find a father, a mother, children and **grandparents***. The father and mother frequently live together with their children. They take care of their elderly parents. When the **children**** are grown, they get married and raise their own families.



***Mom,
Dad & Kids***



One Mom, Many Dads

* Tibet is one of the few places in the world, where there is a tradition of a woman marrying several brothers at the same time. They form one family, and the men think of all the children as their own.

In the family traditions of Tibet*, Nepal, and the Canadian Arctic, one woman marries several men, who are brothers. Children in these families have many dads and one mom. This tradition came into being in areas with limited land for agriculture — this form of family enabled land to be passed on to sons without being divided into pieces too tiny to effectively farm on them.



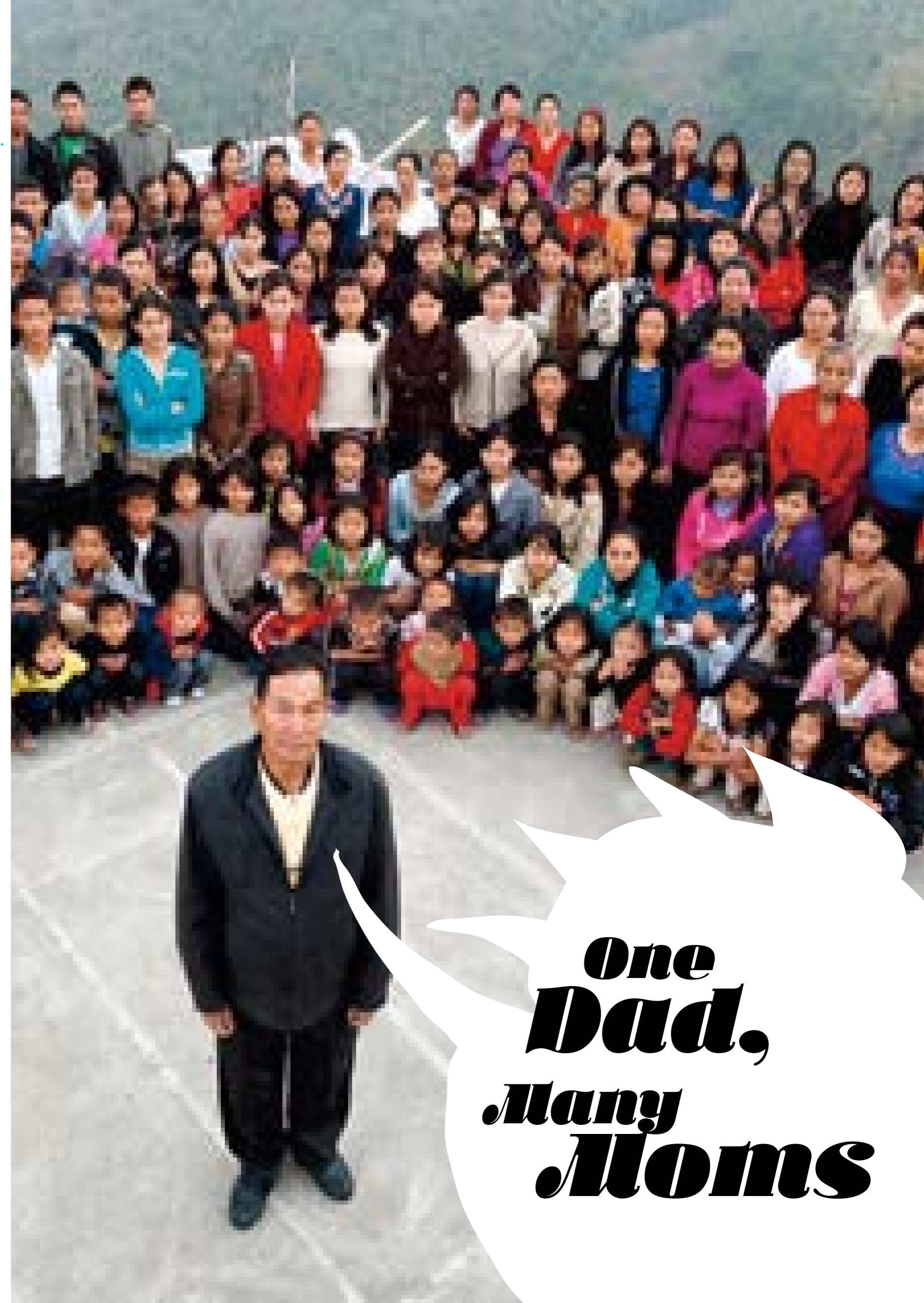
***One
Mom,
Many Dads***



One Dad, Many Moms

* Mormons in the United States have traditionally practiced polygamy. Polygamy was banned by the law in the United States in 1878, but some mormon communities still practiced polygamy and taking child brides unofficially.

Among nomadic herders such as the Turkana of Kenya, a man is not considered married if he has only one wife. In fact, having only one wife means bad luck for the family. The first wife will often be the one who asks her husband to take another wife. Generally, a man does not bring home a **new bride*** without the consent and approval of his current wives. The wives need each other because there is a lot of work to be done. Keeping house, managing livestock—all this takes time and energy



***One
Dad,
Many
Moms***



Same-sex families

* In Russia, a law forbidding relationships between men was lifted in 1993, but in 2013 a new law was passed, forbidding mention of such relationships in the media, under the threat of Administrative punishment.

Generally, same-sex marriage is a term used to describe a legally or culturally recognized marriage between two people of the same sex, or of the same gender.

In many Countries in the West (in the Netherlands, Germany), same-sex marriages are authorized by law. People who love each other can live together, get married and adopt and raise children.

However, there are **still countries*** where gay marriage is not only banned, but same-sex love is punishable by imprisonment or even death. Like in Uganda for example



**One
Mom,
Many Dads**



Same-sex families

* The term “lesbianism” comes from the name of the Greek island, Lesbos, the birthplace and home of the ancient Greek poetess Sappho. Sappho’s poems are commonly interpreted as celebrating romantic love between women.

Historically there have been more legitimate ways for women to have live-in companions and to hide homosexual relationships. **Lesbian couples*** can produce biological children, but then only the birth mom is legally considered the “real” mom and the second mom cannot adopt her child. In the countries where same-sex marriages are forbidden, families made up of a mom and a mom experience the same discrimination as families made up of two dads. In ancient civilizations in Greece, China, and Japan, romantic relationships between women of upper classes were socially acceptable.

Two Moms





Extended family (multigenerational)

* Immigrant families from Latin American, South Asian countries, and Eastern European countries are much more likely to live that way, as the tradition remained unbroken in their homelands

** Even houses are now built for multi-generational living, according to architects and real estate agents. Houses—in such houses there is more common space for different family members to come together. Grandparents can spend more time with grandchildren, and parents can take the time to focus on their work.

Multi-generational families are a more traditional family model that is coming back. Grandparents, parents, and children living under the same roof used to be very common in most cultures, but by the 1980s separate nuclear households became more common in Western societies. Now, however, the number of multigenerational homes are growing again. This is partly because of many **immigrant families*** that come to countries like America. But some Western families are also choosing multi-generational **ways of living**** again, for economic, childcare, and family lifestyle reasons.



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**mom, dad,
kids and
grandparents**



Transnational family

* Immigrant families are regular families who have moved from one country to another one. There are many reasons why a family might move, but the most common ones are economic.

A transnational family is not a simple **immigrant family***. It's a new form of family dispersed across borders, yet keeping in touch with the help of new technologies like email and Skype. In transnational families, parents from Ghana may move to England, or a Polish mother may find work in Germany; the kids are left behind to be raised by grandparents, aunts and uncles, and other members of the extended family. Transnational families can function in this way for years, while the parents earn money and send it back home in the hope of giving their children better opportunities for schooling and well-being.

Grandparents with kids



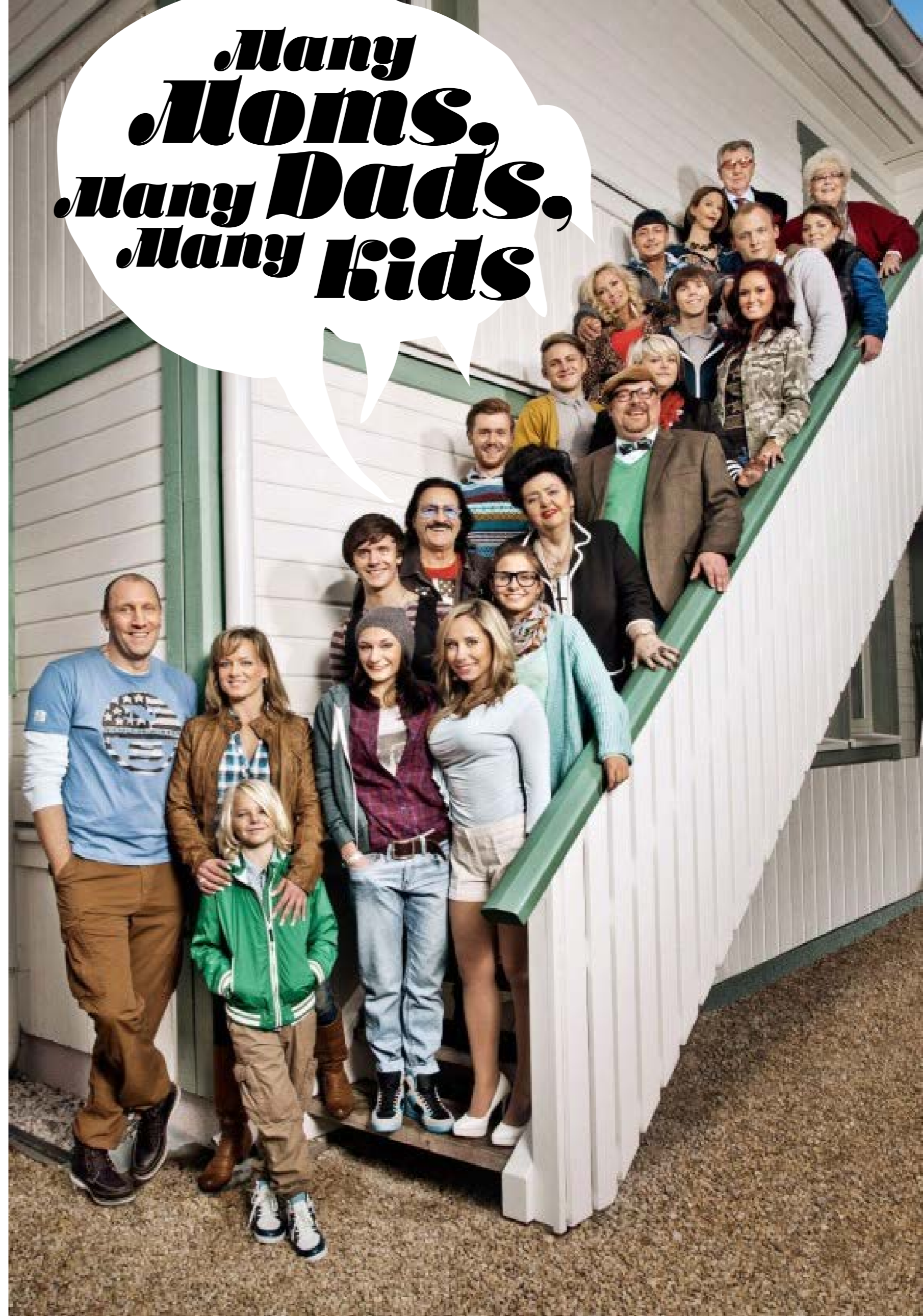


Blended families

* Divorce is a name for a situation when a family comes apart. Different cultures have very different reasons for divorce. In some cultures a man may divorce a woman if she cannot bear children. In most places today divorce happens between people who have stopped loving each other or liking each other.

A mom, a dad, a stepmom and a stepdad. A half-sister and an step-brother. Step-siblings who share blood relatives. Four sets of grandparents. These are all composite parts of blended families — even if, in the end, the family is made up of a mom, a dad, and kids, it didn't necessarily start out that way. **Divorce*** and remarriage are major life events that all affect the shape a family takes.

*Many
Moms,
Many Dads,
Many Kids*





* An intra-family event—an adoption of a child by the relatives of the mother (and the child). This usually happens if a mother is quite young, or is otherwise in a difficult situation for raising the child herself.

There are many ways to become a parent — not all of them are biological. Formal and informal adoption has been around for centuries. For a long time adoption was a local, and frequently an **intra-family event***, but in the recent past transnational adoption has become a trend — a controversial one, since although well-meaning families often want to help children from poorer countries have a better life, there are concerns about cultural consequences and unethical industries involved in that kind of adoption.

Mom, Dad, Adopted Kids





Surrogate Mothers

* It is amazing that today a person, if they have enough money, and the legal possibility, can have as many children as they want. Someone may hire a hundred, or even a thousand surrogate mothers, who can bear ten children each. Adoption is much more rigidly controlled by the government than the “production” of children by surrogate mothers, which is often a market-like transaction. The customer (future parent) may live in one country, and order a child in a different country. It is difficult for governments to control this

Surrogacy* is a practice where a woman (a relative, a friend, or a virtual stranger) agrees to get pregnant and give birth to a child for someone else. She may be the child's mother genetically, or she can be a gestational surrogate. There are different laws about these procedures; in some places gestational surrogacy is illegal. In some places like India and certain American states surrogacy is a well-compensated service; in other places like Canada it cannot be purchased as a service, but may be freely offered, as a gift to a mother unable to conceive or carry a child to term.

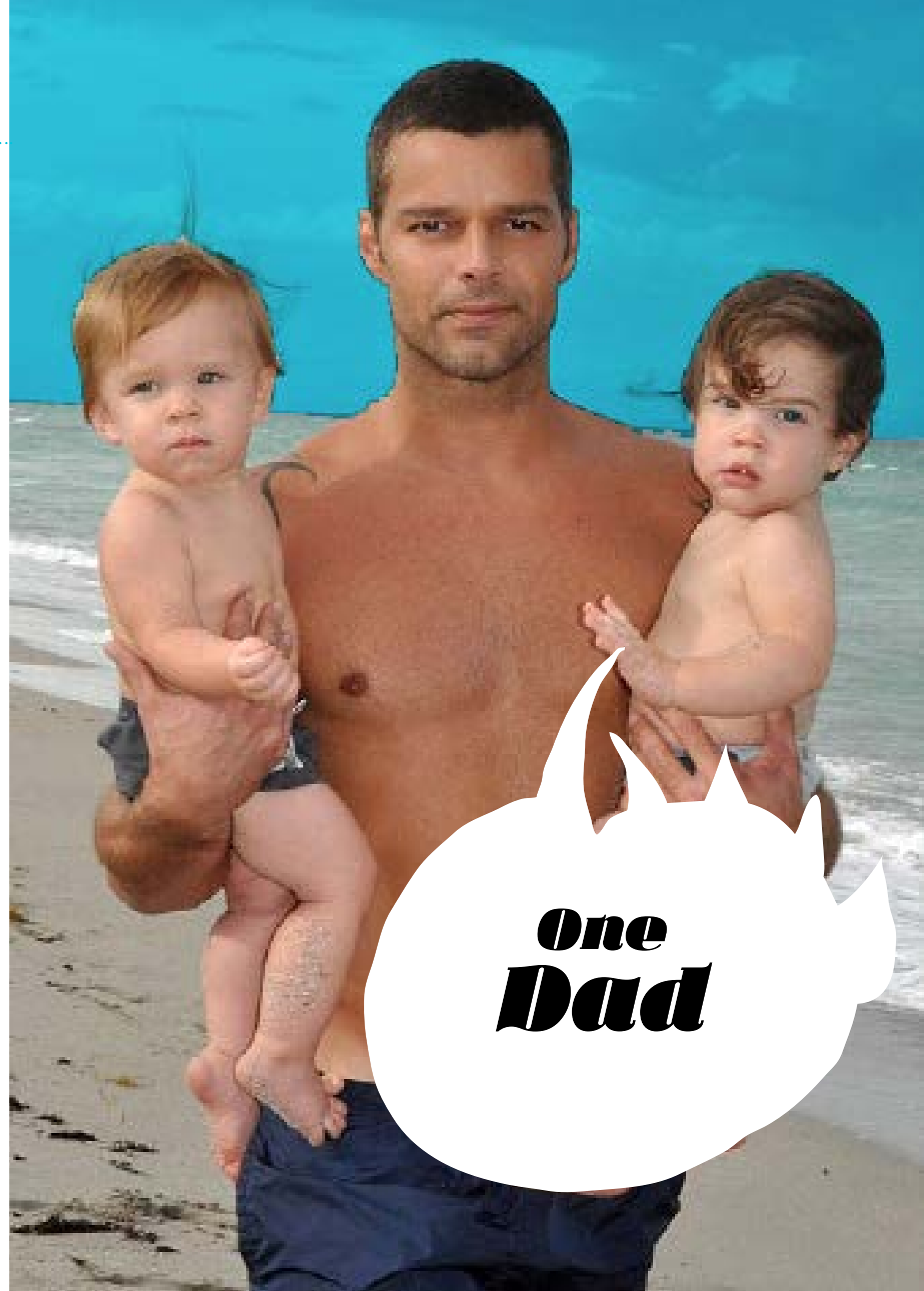


**Mom,
Dad & child
of
Surrogate
Mom**



* This has to do with the changing role of men in society. Modern men in West countries often want to devote themselves to raising children and running the household. In the past, that role was usually expected of a woman. The fastest-growing type of family in contemporary western big cities is one with a single father. Maybe soon most families in the West? will be one-parent families?

In the modern city, many families consist of one parent (mother or father) and one or more children. Sometimes this happens because the first big family divorces. Sometimes mom or dad had originally planned to raise their children alone. City dwellers do not need a big family to gather the harvest from the fields or hunt animals. The single salary of mom or dad can provide for the whole family. If the salary is not enough, one can apply for state aid. Today **one-parent families*** are widespread. Numbers of the one-parent families are dramatically growing in today's cities.



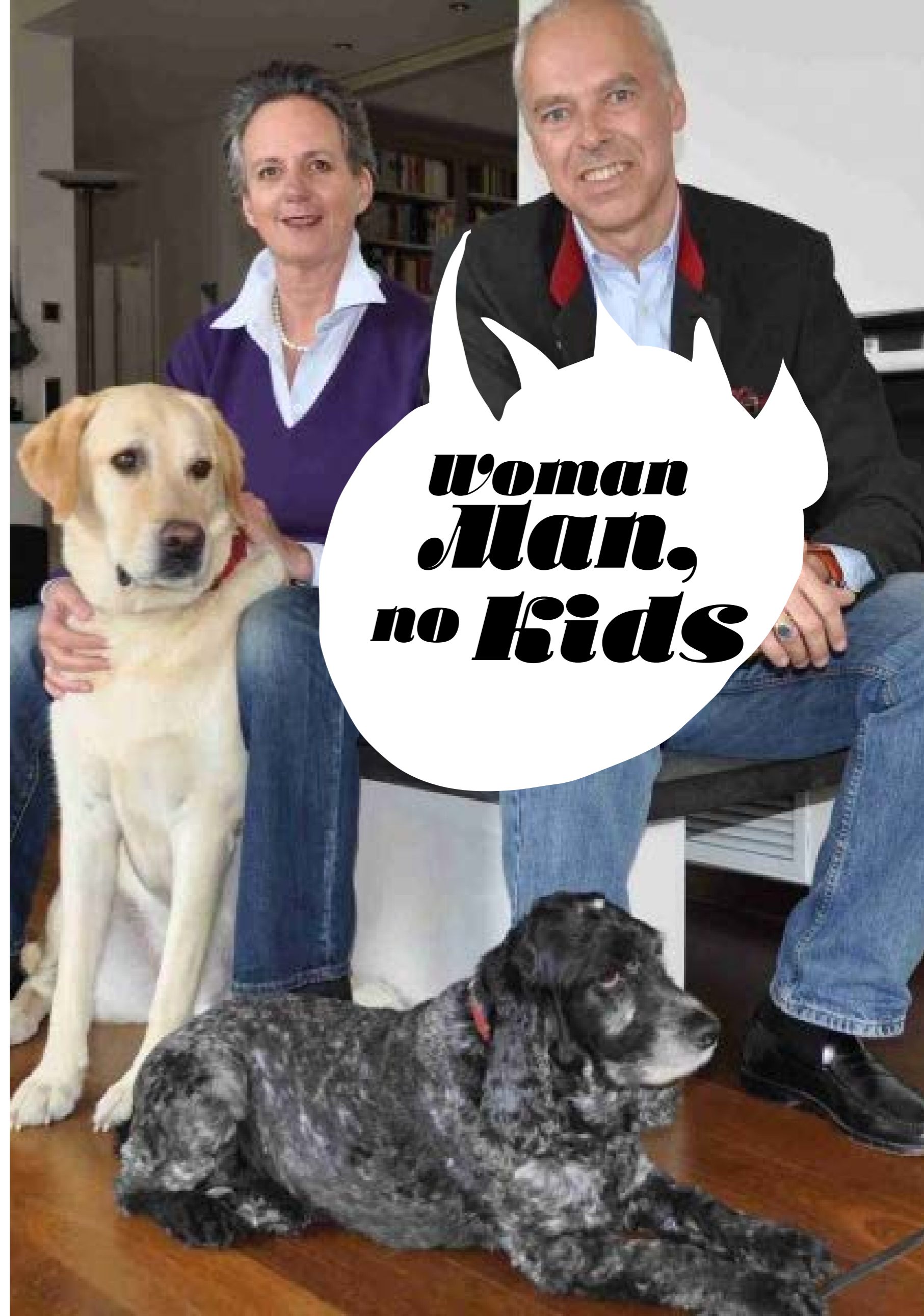
**One
Dad**



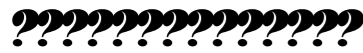
Childfree families

* In many cultures procreation has been considered the ultimate purpose of human life. In systems like that women exist to bear children, and men—to accumulate family wealth, and pass it on to his children.

Childfree families neither have children nor a desire to have them. People have different reasons for choosing the child-free lifestyle. Some believe that the world is too overpopulated to bring more people into it. Others choose to be child-free for financial, emotional, or lifestyle reasons. In the world where traditionally marriage and family have been associated with **procreation***, a family that feels complete without a “next generation” is yet another example of the many diverse lifestyles and thoughts about what family is supposed to mean that exist in practice.



**Woman
Man,
no Kids**



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