This audio feature aims to showcase the difference in opinions of Egyptians of varying ages about marriage. Join Farah Ahmed and Salma Ahmed as they reveal their different expectations regarding marriage and starting a family.

_Sound Effect: FADE IN: Zagrou (0-15 seconds from the start of the effect)_

There it is the sound each Egyptian girl grows up dreaming of, or pressured to dream of. The unmissable sound of the tongue moving rapidly to produce an annoying screech to represent happiness and celebration, most specifically during weddings.

_Nat Sound:_ *Children playing and yelling (:21)*

*MUSIC: FADE IN: 7 dot 4 (:31)*

The girls grow up playing with makeshift veils and anything white and long enough to pass for a wedding dress, until they reach that certain stage when they realize that this dream is no more than an illusion of a false reality. Meet my 11-year-old sister.

_Farah Ahmed (FA): “Hi, I’m Farah.” (:02)  
MUSIC: FADE IN: Over Me (3:02, 1:15-3:48)"

She still lives in that fairy world where marriage is her ultimate goal.

_(FA): “By the time I’m 20, I want to get married.” (:03)"

But Farah, I am 20 and I am not married yet. 20 is too young, don’t you want to focus on your education and career?

_(FA): “No Salma, you should be married.” (:03)"

Who says that?

_(FA): “Mom, Grandma, everyone!” (:03)"
Unfortunately for me, she isn't lying. The two leading female figures in my life have hinted at it more than I would like to admit, especially the latter. She has even went as far as finding me potential bachelors.

My social media platforms, within their wide variety, have become an outlet for my former friends to showcase their newly found fiancés. Emphasis on former, as not once was I invited to these engagement parties. According my mom, because I am single and will definitely be seen as a threat to the soon-to-be bride and a source of envy.

**Nat Sound:** People talking in the background (1:00)

Amani Abdo (AA): “Girls feel very accomplished when they find a suitable husband and the second they do, they will not trust any of their single girlfriends.” (:11)

The second she finds a partner the me becomes us and the I becomes we, but according to many that is not a problem.

I asked my mom about the rush in getting girls in white dresses and her answer came without a second of hesitation.

(AA): “Family honor.” (:02)

My grandma’s answer was a little different. She told me that a girl need to fulfil her duty as a mother before her time run out, which physically pains me to say out loud. Other than the objectification of the woman to nothing more than a reproduction machine, but many don’t want children.

(FA): “And I want to have six kids, two girls twins, one two boy twins and one a girl and a boy twin.” (:10)
As of 2017, it has been reported that over 40 percent of Egyptian marriages fail to cross the five-year mark, mostly upon younger couples in their late 20s.

During my junior year of high school I had this Lithuanian teacher, in her late 60s, who told us time and time again that she married with the intention of divorce so whenever she is asked why she is single she would reply, “Oh I tried it but it simply wasn’t for me.” I disliked her with a passion but I idolized her for this ideology.

So for any moms on the hunt for a girl willing to put up with her overgrown baby, please don't consider me. And for anyone concerned about me running out of time thank you, I appreciate the concern but I still have a long way to go before I am ready for a life companion.

*MUSIC: FADE IN: 7 dot 4 (:21)*

This audio feature was produced by Salma Ahmed for the Audio Production course at The American University in Cairo, taught by Professor Kim Fox in the Spring semester of 2019. Special thanks to Farah Ahmed and Amani Abdo for taking part in this project.