

She's got matrimony on her mind! Teen Mom OG's **Maci Bookout** declares, "What is the deal?"

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Maci Bookout dreamed about this life. The star of MTV's *Teen Mom OG* (January 4, 10 P.M.) has a challenging job as social-media consultant for a lending company, two charming kids and a loving guy, Taylor McKinney, 26. "In years past it was always something I was hoping for," says Bookout of her having-it-all existence in Chattanooga, Tennessee. "Now it's a reality." The only thing missing: a ring. At first, the 24-year-old bristled at fan gossip about when McKinney, a custom countertop sales rep and dad of her 7-month-old, Jayde, would propose. "I was like, 'Everybody, shut up about it,'" she says. But three years into their romance, "it's to the point where I'm like, 'Really, what *is* the deal?'" Bookout (also mom of Bentley, 7, with ex Ryan Edwards, 28) opens up to *Us*' Sarah Grossbart.

Your fans seem to think you're already betrothed! Are you even close?
If all the rumors were true, I've been engaged and married more than anyone else on the entire planet. I always say, "You're asking the wrong person!" [Laughs.] But marriage is something I want in my life. In my opinion — and I think Taylor would

agree — we pretty much are already married. So it's kind of like, All right, what are we waiting on? I'm confused.

You're also crazy-busy! How do you two juggle everything?
Our main goal every day is to just not go insane. We make a really good team — ready and willing



OG will show more of Bookout (with McKinney Aug. 24) as a working mom.



Bentley (a "very good big brother," says Mom) cradled his sister December 2.

to do whatever needs to be done. I don't think we would be able to do everything we have going on if we didn't have each other.

Is Jayde a handful?

She definitely has her own personality. She's intellectual and likes to figure things out before she reacts. She's eating new foods, talking — not words, obviously, but having conversations in her own language. She really likes yogurt and she'll eat green beans, but you can tell she wouldn't pick that if it were up to her. She's at the fun baby stage instead of just the newborn puke-cry-poop-eat stage.

Is Bentley still obsessed with her?

Oh, yes. He thinks she's queen of the world. If the dogs are up and playing, he's always like, "Oh, baby Jayde's over there, you've got to be careful."

And when he's not watching over little sis?

He pretty much likes any sort of sport — basketball,

baseball — and being outside, riding his bicycle. He's also into Minecraft on PlayStation. His next venture, though, is vlogging. He is dying to start his own vlog on YouTube.

On the show, he spends a lot of time with Ryan's parents, but not with his dad. Has Ryan stepped up at all?

He's definitely been more present and involved. I think that also has a lot to do with our communication and me treating *him* as the other parent in this situation, rather than his parents.

Last season, you had some tense communications with costar Farrah Abraham. Have you squashed that?

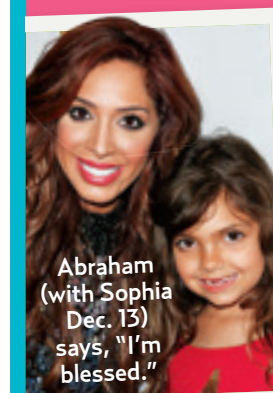
From my point of view, that's over and done with. I just wish her the best.

I'm not sure she returns that sentiment.

I wouldn't say she feels the same, either. But I can't control anybody else but me.

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Farrah Is Adopting!



Abraham (with Sophia Dec. 13) says, "I'm blessed."

» Bookout isn't the only one with a growing family. *OG*'s Farrah Abraham, already mom of Sophia, 6, confirms to *Us*, "I'm moving forward in my adoption process." Back in 2010, the single Texas resident, 24, told *Us* many of her childhood friends were adopted, "and I understand how important it is for children to have a family environment." Fresh off *Celebrity Big Brother U.K.*, she says she's making some career changes, adding, "This feels so right."