

Marrying Into A Narcissistic Family

Today's podcast is about marrying into a narcissistic family.

The person who marries into a narcissistic family is in for quite the adventure. I learned this from my own experience, but apparently a lot of stories are very similar to mine. Parents decide immediately whether or not they like the person their son or daughter brings home. That decision is often based on simply ridiculous, trivial things such as does this person come from a wealth family or what kind of work does he or she do. It can be even more ridiculous such as something about appearance being a problem. If this person is attractive, over or under weight or maybe is tall when their family is short. It also could be simply a matter of differences in personality. Rather than be polite for the sake of their family member, they hate this new person. They also demand this new person respect them while not returning that respect. And, their definition of respect is that this person be seen & not heard, only doing what benefits the family. This person's needs & wants mean nothing to this family.

In these situations, the family functions as one unit in an "it's us against him or her!" manner. As I have said before, they remind me of the Borg from "Star Trek: The Next Generation". They all function as one, focused only on what the Collective dictates. In this case, the Collective is usually a narcissistic mother pulling everyone's strings to make them act according to her whim. One whim the "Collective" usually has is to tell their family member & have others in the family say as well how terrible this new person is. She isn't good enough, she stole him from their family, she keeps him from them & similar lies are the most common for women, but some other claims are the new person is unfaithful, steals, uses drugs & more.

It never seems to cross their collective mind that their relative could get fed up & walk away. And really, why would it? No doubt he or she has tolerated all manners of maltreatment & even abuse at the hands of this family. They place demands on him or her like giving them money or otherwise bailing them out of their problems with no thought to how this could affect this person, & he or she does as told. Why not? This is what this person has done their entire life. Often siblings in these situations call this one mean spirited nicknames for their entire life, even as an adult, as an attempt to let their relative know that he or she is still a child in their eyes.

Families like this are entitled beyond belief. They honestly think they are entitled to treat this poor person any way they like. By default, they believe they are also entitled to treat the new significant other just as badly. They have groomed this person to take any abuse they dish out without complaint, & expect the same behavior from the new spouse. If he or she complains, all hell can break loose.

At this point, families like this don't consider anything that led up to the complaints. They only see the problem at hand, which is someone is setting boundaries on their abuse. The horrors!!

Sadly, the family member in this situation doesn't often realize how disrespectful & insulting the family is to not only the spouse but him or her as well.

The family clearly has no respect or love for their relative if they won't at least try to be civil to the person their relative loves. If they did, they would manage basic civility, unless of course that person was abusive to him.

Clearly this family also thinks their relative is stupid. After all, they expect this person not to use his or her own mind, but instead to blindly listen to them regarding his or her life. As if this person doesn't know what is best or isn't smart enough to choose a good person to marry! How insulting is that?!

It's a truly sad situation! If you are in this situation, my heart goes out to you! I pray you & your spouse can work together to set healthy boundaries with this Borg-like family. Being clearly a team is the best thing you can do as a couple in this situation.

Thank you for listening to my podcast!