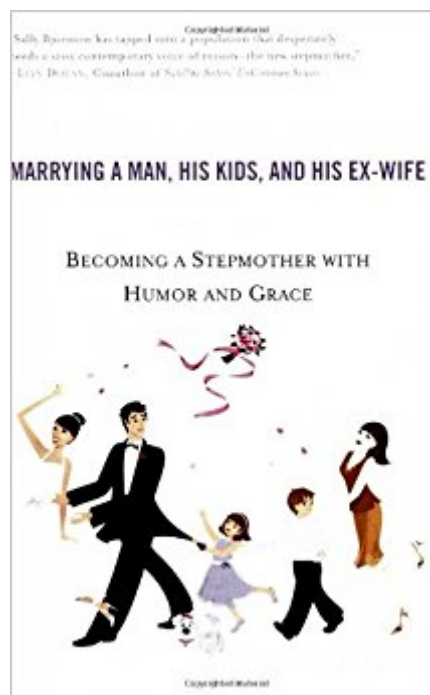


The book was found

The Single Girl's Guide To Marrying A Man, His Kids, And His Ex-Wife: Becoming A Stepmother With Humor And Grace



Synopsis

A funny, honest, and empathetic resource for the novice stepmother, which includes advice on The kids: Adjusting to suspicion, resentment, and biological-parent loyalties; The ex-wife: Living calmly alongside her, whether she's a psycho or the perfect mother; The holidays: Accommodating old family traditions and developing new ones; The sex: Keeping love alive through the kids' bed-wetting and nightmares. Plus an invaluable list of resources, websites, publications, and organizations specifically for the new stepmother.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Wow. I just finished reading this last night. I was entertained by some of it, and very much wanted to like it, but in the end -- especially the end -- I was extremely disappointed. Potential readers know this: If you are looking for anecdotes about stepmotherhood you'll find plenty of them here... have a cuppa, have a laugh, know that there are others in your boat. But if you're looking for wisdom and practical solutions, steer clear. It's light and quick reading at best, and definitely does not provide sound or professional advice. The predicaments in this book are pitiful and a little sad, and the only answer continually expressed throughout is to lay down and take it -- and, in effect, build resentment. If you're the type of person who does that sort of thing and can actually operate happily taking a back seat for the rest of your life, you will love this book. If you're the type of person who believes ALL parties in these (often but not always) chaotic situations deserve respect and should compromise, then you'll hate it. Guilt is a definite by-product of divorce when children are involved,

but your guilt-ridden husband has just as big a part to play in this scenario as you do, such as respecting you and being able to stand up to an ex-wife -- who is often times a bigger problem than the children themselves, and not necessarily because she's a "psycho" (not all ex-wives are the devil). The simple point is, if you choose to settle for the back seat, a husband who chronically avoids conflict will happily leave you there. Finally, I can barely come up with the proper words to express how horrified I was at the advice in the final chapters to have "your own baby" so you not only are accepted by your husband's family (which, by the way, includes you at the helm!

This book addresses many of the issues faced by women who marry men with children, such as kids, exes, money, and inlaws. It is not a "single girl's guide" - it is designed for new stepmoms. For that reason, it may be useful for the new stepmom who has little clue what to expect. The book is humorous and focuses on being optimistic and upbeat, and could be a supplement to other step-parenting books. However, the book made me sad, both for the author and for other women who have suffered some of the situations described in this book. The author uses a lot of humor to tell stories (and there are lots of stories, especially her own stories) and illustrate her point, but her humor is a thin disguise for some of the more painful things she experienced. For example, she describes an incident where her stepson tripped her on purpose, causing her to fall flat on her face in public, and then she watched her husband comfort the child after she barked at him for tripping her! She talks about being excluded from the world of biological mothers because she's not a "real" mom. She then advises the reader that stepmothers will always come in second place after the kids, and to accept it! This sort of advice is patently wrong and encourages stepmothers to settle for crap instead of what they deserve. I'm with "E. Miller" - her book is filled with creepy and disturbing things. As a stepmother, I acknowledge some of the difficulties the author discusses - money issues, weird ex-wives, disciplining the kids - they come with the territory. However, I STRONGLY disagree with her about taking second place to his children - it is not acceptable for a man to treat his wife like she is less important than his kids, or allow his children to treat her disrespectfully.

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