OCTOBER 2023 ISSUE FRLL EDITION

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Il Signs You're Dating a Narcissist

Men's Mental Health: Warning Signs & Where to Go for Help

Inspirational Corner

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11 SIGNS YOU'RE DATING A NARCISSIST

BY AUROMAI

SOURCE: https://www.kasamba.com/love-relationships/dating-a-narcissist/

SPOT THE WARNING SIGNS EARLY!

In the beginning stages of dating, people are often on their best behavior. So how can you tell if someone is a true Narcissist, or just trying to make a good impression?

Every new romantic relationship comes with its own list of unknowns. One of the most important things you want to become aware of early on in the relationship is whether the person you're dating is a narcissist.

Having a relationship with a narcissist can be unnerving, confusing and even downright messy as the relationship can suddenly become emotionally manipulative and abusive. Narcissists are not all the same, they may vary in their behavior, but luckily there are red flags that you can watch out for.

WHAT ARE NARCISSISTS?

Let's take a step back to define what a narcissist is: narcissism is a personality disorder that's often a result of the combination of genetics and one's upbringing. People with narcissistic personality disorders are not grounded in their own personalities. They are largely reactive, drawing from your emotional response, which they get through a series of manipulative behaviors, such as grandiosity, antagonism, and attention-seeking.

Narcissists experience extremely low levels of empathy and do not consider the repercussions of their behavior towards others. Their relationships are shallow, which means that you are merely a means to an end. That "end" is the satisfaction of boosted selfesteem or energy, while lowering your own. Pay attention, and you'll notice that when you are in the presence of a narcissist you feel drained and tired.

ARE YOU DATING A NARCISSIST?

Here are the most common narcissistic traits to watch out for when you're dating:

- Excessive, obsessive bragging in an exhibition of grandiosity. As mentioned above, this is one of the main <u>signs of narcissism</u>. That's particularly so if this showy behavior is done while acting in a condescending manner towards other people.
- Self-centeredness. A true narcissist has disregard for others' thoughts, feelings, possessions, time, and physical space. They'll use you without a hint of consideration or sensitivity. Caring for others is only done if it's for their benefit. For example, keeping up the good image of a perfect family member or friend with good deeds that are later used as leverage to get what they want.
- Narcissists dominate a conversation. Listen to the way they speak. Has your date spoken only about themselves all night? A pathological narcissist loves to brag about their accomplishments and achievements. Narcissists are generally excited about their "envy-worthy" activities. There's an excessive focus on personal ideals and concerns, as well as on outer appearances and materialistic achievements.
- Skin-deep charm. Narcissists often appear to be very alluring and attractive, especially during the early stages of a relationship. They're often charismatic and work hard to get your attention. They'll masterfully flatter you to make you feel special. They'll seduce you through vices such as flirting, gifts, dinners, sex, etc. But make no mistake: this is all part of persuading you to get you to give them what they want. Remember they seek your energy in this way, but you have to willingly give it to them.
- **Constant attention-seeking.** Narcissists draw meaning in their lives through being needed. They fulfill that need by taking up as much space in your life as they can. They'll often seek to fill their emptiness through physical and emotional intimacy.

• Unreliability. Narcissist don't give a second thought when it comes to breaking promises or appointments. You make plans, but you never really never know if a narcissist will actually show up. When you're already living with a narcissist, you'll find your schedule and routine constantly disrupted.

- Instant Gratification. This is a common trait in every narcissist. They expect to receive whatever they want, the moment they want it. Not only that, but if they want you to give it to them, you must. If you want to test this person, state "No, let me think." If their immediate reaction is to be aggressive and throw a child-like temper-tantrum, you're likely dealing with a narcissistic personality. In fact, when any of the above criteria are not fulfilled, the narcissist will easily become angry or depressed.
- Require a constant line of communication. A narcissist will expect you to answer their texts or calls immediately. If you do not answer their phone call, they will call you multiple times, and perhaps try to reach you via other mediums as well. Their goal is to condition you to be constantly looking out for their phone calls or texts.
- **High sense of entitlement.** Narcissists expect preferential treatment from others. They need it in order to feel special. A narcissist will want you to foresee any needs they may have, and tend to them fully, regardless of your feelings, time or energy. Pay attention to how your date treats service people, such as a waitress or waiter, during dates.
- **Gas lighting.** The pathological narcissist manipulates you into no longer trusting your own view of reality. If you're dating a narcissist, they'll do anything in their power to make you believe that they are right and you are wrong.

• Sudden emotional detachment. Narcissists have a distinctive strategy. They start off as seemingly the perfect partner in the first week of dating. They flatter you, build you up, and make you feel validated and special. Then they suddenly become cold and distant towards you. They tear down your self-confidence with their unhealthy cycle of manipulation.

BE MINDFUL OF EMOTIONAL DETACHMENT!

This is the most telling sign, but it is unfortunately only apparent when you have already entered into their cycle of manipulation. Know that narcissists constantly create drama to get your attention, and they'll blame the drama on you. Narcissist are both survivalists and predatory by nature. Their goal is to create an ongoing channel that draws your energy from you.

Any of the above behaviors look familiar? Here's how to handle a narcissist that's already in your life:

- **Simply say "NO!"** Narcissists need to feed off your emotional reactions to sustain their codependency. Emotional reactions from you such as terror, chaos, sympathy, compassion, massive amounts of admiration, overwhelming loss or godlike worship are what they live for.
- Make sure you have a support system. A narcissist will have taken all your attention away from your other important relationship. If you've already distanced yourself from friends and family members, get back in touch with them. Choose a select few to confide in to get the support you need to move forward.

• Get professional help in times of crisis. Untangling yourself from a relationship with a narcissist is no easy feat. A professional therapist can teach you how to deal with a narcissist, as well as help you refocus on your own needs and deal with any repercussions of your relationship with a narcissist.

When you're dating, remember that, as an adult, you have control over who you allow to be in your life. As with any healthy relationship, a romantic relationship should be one of mutual give and take, and one that brings you joy.

Feel free to <u>OPT OUT</u> at any time that you feel unhappy about the relationship with the person you're dating for any reason, especially if you're dating a narcissist.

15 SIGNS THAT YOU'RE A NARCISSIST



1. You're a bad sport.

Some narcissists are bullies and tend to be both **sore losers and sore winners**. For example, when they lose in a sports match, they might try to humiliate the referee. When they win, they might gloat excessively.



4. You often swear at people.

A Washington University in St. Louis study found that subjects who scored higher in narcissism are **argumentative and curse more** than their modest counterparts.



7. You enjoy leading others

Narcissists typically enjoy leadership positions since they are able to **dominate others** and fulfill their need for constant positive reinforcement.



10. You're likely young and male.

After 34,653 face-to-face interviews, psychologist Frederick Stinson found that men tend to be more narcissistic than women across their lifespans. Narcissism is believed to **peak during adolescence**.



13. You're a serial romantic.

"Seductive" narcissists fall in and out of love quickly and easily, often with people they don't know very well. Until reality sets in, they think their partner is absolutely perfect – a complement to their own perfection.



2. You always feel underappreciated.

"Grandiose" narcissists always hold a grievance against the world. They typically feel entitled to something better and think they're not getting the recognition they deserve from others.



5. You're self-righteous.

Narcissists often believe their views are inherently superior to other people's perspectives. But what they truly value is the **attention and acknowledgement** they receive for holding those views.

8. You're an entertainer.

"A narcissist monk would not be good, but to be Kanye West and a narcissist is fantastic," said University of Western Sydney psychologist Peter Jonason, an expert on social psychology.



11. You're regarded as attractive.

Narcissists are generally rated as **more** stylish and physically attractive, according to a study conducted by Simine Vazire, a psychologist at Washington University.



14. You cheat in relationships.

Narcissists are more likely to cheat once they think their partners are committed. They also seem to get a rush out of convincing others to engage in **promiscuous sexual acts** that they normally do not participate in.



Many narcissists are know-it-alls, and have a

hard time getting along with people because they refuse to believe they could possibly be wrong about anything. They have a **"my way** or the highway" approach to decision-making.

3. You think everyone is stupid.



6. You feel justified being mean.

Vindictive narcissists generally know vengeful or antisocial behavior isn't acceptable. But they feel okay about acting that way because they **constantly feel they've been wronged**.



9. You hate having to feel emotion.

Feeling an emotion "challenges their sense of perfect autonomy," says Harvard Medical School psychologist Craig Malkin. As a result, narcissists tend to change the topic of conversation when feelings come up.



12. You're a bad listener.

A University of Texas in Austin study found that narcissists typically prefer to keep the conversation centered on themselves, "making exaggerated hand movements, talking loudly, and showing disinterest by 'glazing over' when others speak."



15. You always have to be in control.

Narcissists are more likely to control people with disapproving glances, calls to change plans, and chronic lateness. This allows them to undermine other people's ability to make choices and maintain their sense of total autonomy.



BUSINESS INSIDER

SOURCES: Joseph Burgo, Ph.D., "The Narcissist You Know", Psychology Today, The Huffington Post

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Men's Mental Health: Warning Signs & Where to Go for Help

By Kirstie Ganobsik HealthDay Reporter

SOURCE: https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2023-06-12/mens-mental-health-warning-signs-where-to-go-for-help?src=usn_tw



Men typically don't want to discuss mental health issues, much less get treatment for one. That's a problem, given how many males struggle with mental health problems: Six million American men suffer from depression every year, while 3 million struggle with anxiety disorder, according to <u>Mental Health America</u>. Beyond that, 90% of those diagnosed with schizophrenia by age 30 are men, and 25% of those with binge eating disorder are males. Unfortunately, men are less likely to seek professional help for their problems. When it comes to suicide, the picture is also troubling. While women are more likely to attempt suicide, it is the 7th leading cause of death among males, and white men over the age of 85 are the most likely to die by suicide.

Here, experts describe the most common mental health conditions men experience, the symptoms that may differ in men versus women, and what resources are available for those seeking help and treatment options.

Common mental health conditions in men

According to Mental Health America, the most common men's mental health conditions are:

- **Depression**
- Suicide
- <u>Anxiety</u>
- <u>Bipolar disorder</u>
- <u>Eating disorders</u>
- <u>Schizophrenia</u>
- Substance abuse

"It's a sign of strength to talk about these issues with your health care provider, counselor or a supportive family member or friend," Piedmont Healthcare family medicine physician <u>Dr. Siraj Abdullah</u> said in a <u>recent article</u>. "As men, we tend to let stress build up until it affects our mental and physical health. Talking about your mental health is a way to take care of your body."

How men's mental health symptoms may show up differently than in women

The reasons that mental health symptoms can be different for men and women are complex, according to McLean Hospital chief of psychology <u>Kathryn McHugh</u>.

She noted in a hospital <u>article</u> that "biology is not the only piece of the puzzle. There are also many social and cultural factors that play a role in mental health and wellness, such as social role expectations, discrimination and violence."

The <u>Anxiety and Depression Association of America</u> states that the main mental health symptoms in men that may be different from those found in women are:

- Abuse or misuse of drugs or alcohol
- Noticeable changes in mood, appetite or energy levels
- Violent, controlling or abusive behavior
- Digestive issues, headaches and pain
- Escaping into work, sports or other distracting behavior
- Risk-taking

Men with depression are also more likely than women to report symptoms of fatigue and loss of interest in work or hobbies, according to Mental Health America.

Men and suicide

Men are particularly susceptible to suicide. According to the <u>U.S. Centers for Disease Control and</u> <u>Prevention</u>, men are four times more likely to die by suicide than women, and gay and bisexual men under the age of 25 are at a higher risk for attempting suicide than the general male population, according to Mental Health America.

The <u>Suicide Prevention Resource Center</u> notes that one of the reasons for higher male suicide rates is that men are less likely to get mental health care than women. The center <u>suggests</u> getting help before a mental health crisis occurs. This can include:

- Seeking behavioral health care, such as seeing a therapist
- Connecting to family, friends, community and social organizations
- Learning life skills like problem-solving and strategies for adapting to change
- Engaging with spiritual, religious or other belief practices that discourage suicide

If you'd like to begin or continue a behavioral health care plan, you can reach out to the <u>SAMHSA National</u> <u>Helpline</u> for a treatment referral.

Men's mental health resources: How to get help

APA Psychologist Locator Tool

The American Psychological Association offers a database of thousands of <u>therapists</u>. Just put in your ZIP code, provider name or practice area. Once the results show up, you can sort the psychologists by a variety of categories, such as gender and treatment methods.

Mental Health Hotline

If you're looking for a men's mental health hotline to discuss your issues confidentially at no charge, the Mental Health Hotline provides a toll-free number with counselors on stand-by 24/7. The organization also lists several condition-specific hotlines for health issues like anxiety, depression, PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and more — plus links to helpful resources on these conditions.

<u>Man Therapy</u>

Fictional Dr. Rich Mahogany "runs" this site, which is actually administered by multiple agencies, including the Colorado Department of Public Health. It combines helpful mental health techniques and quizzes with humor and a uniquely human touch. There's an online <u>peer chat</u>, <u>20-point head inspection</u> and a <u>worried-about-someone</u> page to help loved ones of men who may be experiencing mental health issues.

Therapy for Black Men

Multicultural care meets mutual aid at Therapy for Black Men, where the <u>coaches and counselors</u> strive to offer free or discounted services to Black men with mental health issues. You can meet in person or online for a session, and there's also a host of articles and <u>social resources</u>, including community organizations aimed at helping your mental health thrive.

Mental health medications

Several medications may be prescribed by your doctor to help you improve your mental health. According to the <u>U.S. National Institute of Mental Health</u>, these include:

- Antidepressants
- Anti-anxiety medications
- Antipsychotics
- Stimulants
- Mood stabilizers

If you're experiencing a mental health crisis or suicidal ideation and need to talk to someone, call <u>988, the</u> <u>Suicide & Crisis Lifeline</u>. The Lifeline offers free, confidential emotional support across the United States, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Precious Hearts Foundation's Caring Closet for ALL provides free clothing and accessories for men, women and children in need. We are happy to have been providing clothing to our community for a decade and counting. Call for an appointment 1-877-731-2210



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You can get off the treadmill of deleated

thinking by choosing to renew your mind daily.

Change your attitude, and you will change your

People have been removed from your life because God is getting ready to elevate your life, and they cannot go where God is taking you. Life will test you, and life will try you,

but life can never take the victory that

n boans on ha hurt you or ha can heal

God has already given to you!

Faith is a verb, and it requires

action. Doubt will stagnate your

spiritual life, arrest your

dreams, and make you feel

There is no elevator to the top. It is a process, and one step at a time, you will get there. So do not quit. You do not need to see the whole staircase to take the next step. You only need to trust the One who sees and knows.

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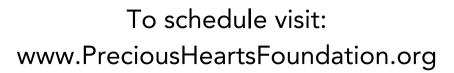
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