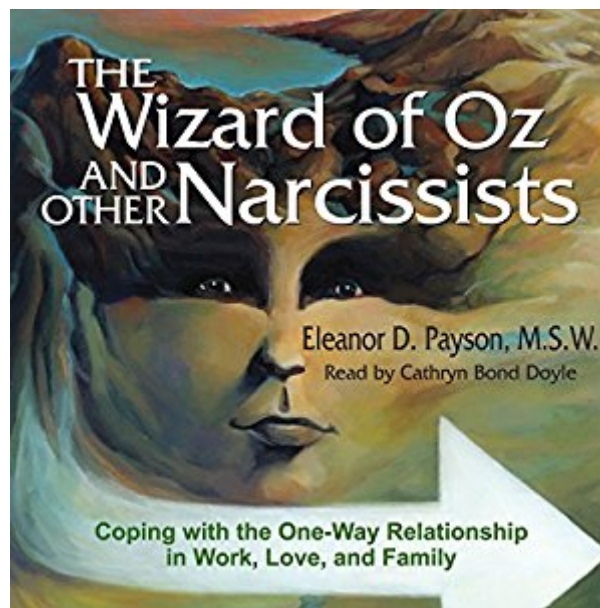


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# The Wizard Of Oz And Other Narcissists: Coping With The One-Way Relationship In Work, Love, And Family



## Synopsis

Every day, headlines are filled with examples of narcissistic individuals in positions of power who are nothing more than impostors plundering and wrecking havoc on the lives of others. From the financial barons of Wall Street to our elected officials, we are confronted daily with narcissists and the self-serving systems that enable them. Helping people reclaim their lives from this sinister exploitative force is the mission behind Eleanor Payson's *The Wizard of Oz and Other Narcissists: Coping with the One-Way Relationship in Work, Love, and Family*. Using simple metaphors from the American classic, *The Wizard of Oz*, Payson illustrates how Dorothy's journey captures all the seductive illusions and challenges that occur when we encounter the narcissist. Empowering the listener with the ABCs of unhealthy narcissism and the unique problems that occur when a person becomes involved with the narcissist, Payson gives step-by-step practical tools to identify, protect, and heal from these destructive relationships, which are largely un-addressed in the psychology and self-help literature. This ground-breaking book offers hope and help to those who have been drawn into these devastating relationships. She includes illuminating case studies that identify the problems that occur in the different types of relationships, from co-workers, to friends, to parents, to lovers. Listeners employing these insights and skills will find new abilities to identify and protect against the narcissist's manipulations and take back control of their lives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Since discovering the roots of narcissism in my world one year ago, I have read a great deal on the subject. This is, hands down, the most helpful book I have read to date. Most books on the market focus on identification of narcissism, or validation of those individuals left in their wake (both

important concepts). But after that, we need real help! This book offers the most realistic and cogent look at what can actually be done after the damage is done. As the child and ex-spouse of narcissists, I appreciated the author gently leading me to examine my own culpability and enabling behaviors, the fallout in my life, and most importantly, how to begin undoing the damage and move on.

I dated someone who is described in this book, and while together I didn't know what the heck was wrong with her thinking at times...that is until I read this book. A happy relationship most of the time, it then became crazy other times, getting worse and worse as time went on. Eleanor Payson hits it right on the nose and explains the child-like behaviors that would occasionally surface from an otherwise truly brilliant and highly successful woman. Here are some of the behaviors described: 1. They are never EVER wrong. 2. They never admit to anything. 3. Nothing is ever a great idea unless it comes from them. 4. You will never get any credit for what you do. Ever. 5. They don't seem to know or care how what they say might impact you. 6. You get hopelessly entangled in their arguments, and it never leads to a resolution. 7. Emotion = Weakness. And on and on it goes. The closer you get to them, the worse it becomes. Every chapter sent me reeling as all these behaviors are discussed. Probably half the book is highlighted in yellow and I read it twice. It was like this book was written about her. It also helped me confront my part in the whole thing as well. **READ THIS BOOK** if you suspect a significant other or parent has these tendencies listed above. If so, this book will blow you away. I wish I had this knowledge **DURING** the relationship and not after I ended it. Understanding the dynamic has brought me some closure and the wisdom of avoiding anything like it again. The sad (and most painful) part is that the only healthy thing you can do is leave. You cannot help them. You cannot heal them. You will not change them.

As a 48 year old guy who has been working his way out of narcissistic codependence for about 15 years, this book clarified several issues I wasn't even aware of. Specifically, Ms. Payson deals squarely with the lack of self-esteem that a narcissist will imbue in a codependent's life. (The narcissist says, "I'm OK, you've got a long way to go and you'll never get there anyway.") Another thing is the insidious, clandestine way in which NPD's work their sordid magic. An NPD is someone with narcissistic personality disorder. The author goes through a 9 item list of the pitfalls and traps that keep a codependent codependent. Ms. Payson also explains in depth how being in a relationship with an NPD can happen in your love life, your work life, and your family life. Often these adult situations are a reliving of the same type of relationship from one's childhood. So much

is clearer now and I feel much steadfast in my resolve to overcome this disorder. I have reassessed many of my friendships and old situations only to realize that I was unwittingly reliving my past. Mrs. Payson's language is clear, warm-hearted, and exact. She uses examples based on experiences of clients from her practice. All in all, I highly recommend this book to those who suffer from narcissistic co-dependence and those who know someone who does.

Eleanor Payson deftly exposes the manipulative behavior and pathology of a narcissist. She reveals why these "charming" creatures suck you in.....project their behaviors on to you, exploit you, demoralize you, then leave. Reading this book will restore your sanity.--They are extraordinarily intelligent, charming, manipulative, and "successful."--Believe they are superior and above reproach.--Are totally incapable of intimacy, but come across as attentive and sensual.--Are self-absorbed and completely incapable of empathy.--Have grandiose ideas and an unquenchable need for recognition and admiration.--Cannot apologize or be accountable because to admit mistakes would suggest that they are imperfect.--Have secret lives: addictions, affairs, perversions, and fetishes.--Have at least two distinctly different personalities and corresponding mood disorders.--Play mind games, and call you crazy when you react.--They are emotionally and financially exploitive; when your money is gone, they are gone.--Once they break you down, they detest you.--Have a strong need to associate with others whom they perceive to be powerful, wealthy, prominent, or otherwise "special."--Will replace you before they leave you. Cannot be alone.--Will circle you like a vulture, find your weak spot, and attack. If understanding is affirmation, Payson opens the door to healing and the subsequent recapture of the energy and vitality that defined you before he/she entered your life.

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