

MY DAD HATES CHARLIE

I've been seeing Charlie for a year and our relationship is fantastic. We get beautifully and have a great deal in common. This man gives love, support, understanding, and companionship. Charlie is the man I have been waiting for all my life.

There is, however, one problem. My parents hate him. My mother struggles to be civil to him, and my father won't allow Charlie's name to be mentioned in the house.

I am beside myself trying to work this out and am having very little success. When holidays come around, Charlie is never included. This puts me in an awkward position because when I don't attend these functions I hurt my family.

Charlie's family is wonderful to me and they enjoy having me around. I plan to marry this terrific man, but I'm terrified about what the wedding will be like under these circumstances.

My parents need to know how much they are hurting me and the person I love.

What Does It Mean?

1. We get along beautifully and have a great deal in common.
2. My mother struggles to be civil to him.
3. I am beside myself.
4. Charlie is never included.

Questions for discussion:

1. How long have they been seeing each other?
2. What is wrong with their relationship?
3. What about Charlie's family? Do they like her?
4. How far can parents control who their children date?
5. What would you do if you were in the following situations?
 - a. Dad hates Charlie because Charlie is 30 years old.
 - b. Dad hates Charlie because Charlie is handicapped.
 - c. Dad hates Charlie because Charlie has no job.