

WORST-CASE SCENARIO.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR BETROTHED'S PARENTS LIKE YOU



Be direct.

Have a conversation about your feelings. Start with, "I've noticed a change in our relationship, and I was wondering if I have done something to offend." Talk about the issue from your point of view. Use phrases such as "I feel this" as opposed to "you did this" so they will not feel attacked. Listen carefully and remain open to criticism.



Be nice.

Remain pleasant and respectful, and you will eventually wear them down. Be patient, as this might take some time.



Arrange for testimonials.

Ask friends, relatives, and neighbors to vouch for your value as a human being when your future in-laws come to visit. Leave information packets on their pillows that include letters of recommendation from coaches, employers, teachers, and religious and community leaders. Include a pie chart that expresses the amount of time you devote each day to your future spouse.



Volunteer your services.

Help with household tasks such as changing the kitty litter, caulking the tub, or walking the dog at the crack of dawn. Take them to the airport at rush hour, teach your betrothed's younger siblings how to drive, install their new computer system, re-point the brick exterior of their home, prepare their tax returns, refinish the floors throughout their house, and detail their car.



Find a common bond.

If your in-laws dislike you because they do not know you, invite them out together or separately on outings they enjoy. If your mother-in-law likes tea, ask her to tea. If she prefers the theater, take her to a play. Take your father-in-law golfing, or if he's a man of few words, to the movies or a nightclub. Pick up the tab.



Plant a diary where your in-laws will be sure to find it.

Fill the diary with virtuous thoughts and aspirations. Declare your love for your betrothed repeatedly. Add entries about how much you like your future in-laws and how much you hope they'll like you, too.



Pretend you are friends with celebrities.

Find out who their heroes are (politicians, authors, activists, sports figures, movie stars, etc.) and autograph and frame a glossy photo of a celebrity to yourself. Mention to your future in-laws you might be able to pull a few strings if they'd like to meet the famous person.



Pay for the wedding.

If you or your family are already paying for the wedding, offer to pay off their mortgage or car payments.



Let them move in.

Give them the big bathroom.



Promise to provide them with a grandchild within a negotiated period of time.