



Remarried with Children: Ten Secrets for Successfully Blending and Extending Your Family

By Barbara LeBey

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It's the most daunting task many parents will ever face: bringing two growing families together into one brand new marriage. But even though statistics show that most remarriages are at high risk--especially when there are kids involved--more and more people are learning how to make them work and more and more kids are coming out of them with their psyches and souls intact. This honest and hopeful book looks at those successes--and at some failures--to show what they have in common: ten essential secrets that are at the heart of a healthy blended family.

As a stepparent with six children in a blended family, Barbara LeBey draws on her own family's hard-won success, as well as on extensive interviews and new research to show how to navigate the stresses, sticking points, pitfalls and perils most couples don't even anticipate. Starting with her first controversial secret--that the new marriage comes first, even before the demands of the children--LeBey debunks prevalent stepfamily myths and anticipates common traps. (Among them, money issues, warring stepsiblings, and destructive exes.) A strong advocate for children (including how to guard against fade-out parenting), she also suggests ways that in-laws, schools, and the legal system itself could provide better support for blended families. *REmarried with Children* is an expert, compassionate, down-to-earth book to turn to over and over again for advice, support and sanity.

Key topics include how to:

- Meet your children's and stepchildren's needs--without letting them undermine your new marriage
- Understand the new roles, new rules, and the new relationships for children and stepchildren of a blended family
- Deal with angry and/or manipulative exes--without adding fuel to the fire

- Handle key decisions about finances, religion, traditions, behavior and discipline
- Maintain healthy relationships with your children's grandparents--and other relatives--from a previous marriage
- Recognize warning signs of trouble ahead--and get the help you need

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

If mothers-in-law have a difficult reputation, then step-children could give the devil a run for his money. At least that's the gist of this helpful, but ultimately disturbing look at the modern-day Brady Bunch. More than half of American families now fall into the category of blended/extended, but the clans profiled by LeBey (*Family Estrangements*) suggest that most are nowhere near as happy-go-lucky as the ones portrayed on TV. Indeed, most of the titular 10 secrets that LeBey recommends revolve around handling the emotions and behavioral problems of children. LeBey counters conventional wisdom by recommending that couples put their new marriage first, ahead of their children's feelings. Only then, she says, will their union survive the maelstrom of cold shoulders, rebellion and even incestuous relations that erupt in children of newly blended families. LeBey is no stranger to these perils herself, having weathered a remarriage and family blending nearly 30 years ago. She speaks of her experiences infrequently, however, preferring to rely on the advice of psychological studies, clergy, marriage counselors, teachers and other specialists. LeBey does occasionally inject a dose of sharp humor among her tips, and her book is peppered with lists (e.g., "How Do You Know If You're Dealing with a Lunatic Ex-Spouse?" and "Ten Traps for Prospective Stepmothers"). But most of the book's value lies in its many anecdotes of families who've survived their new incarnations; merely reading about the problems overcome by many of them should be reassuring to anyone working on an extended family. And while the couples featured are mostly dealing with the outcome of divorce, the chapter devoted to widows, widowers and grieving children is both compassionate and useful.

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From the Inside Flap

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"From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author

Barbara LeBey is a lawyer, former judge, and a wife, mother, and grandmother. Her first book, *Family Estrangements*, was featured in *People* magazine, as well as on Good Morning America and The Today Show. She lives with her husband in Atlanta, Georgia.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brad Black:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book eligible Remarried with Children: Ten Secrets for Successfully Blending and Extending Your Family? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have different opinion?

Ian Ashlock:

Exactly why? Because this Remarried with Children: Ten Secrets for Successfully Blending and Extending Your Family is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will jolt you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such incredible way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book get such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I were you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Joyce Murphy:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray an individual, why because this Remarried with Children: Ten Secrets for Successfully Blending and Extending Your Family book written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who else read the book. Written in good manner for you, dripping every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still hesitation Remarried with Children: Ten Secrets for Successfully Blending and Extending Your Family as good book but not only by the cover but also from the content. This is one book that can break don't evaluate book by its deal with, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your examining sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

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