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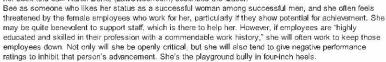
Have you Been Stung by a Queen Bee?

Written by Beverly Langford

June 13, 2010

Today, women are making their mark everywhere, moving into comer offices and boardrooms, owning companies, and governing constituents at all levels. So, when they get in positions of power, we naturally expect them to develop other women who follow them, providing opportunities for these employees and associates to excel and prosper. Unfortunately, even in the second decade of a new millennium, some women still see other women as a threat and continue diligently working to maintain their status at the expense of those around them. This unfortunate phenomenon is known as the Queen Bee Syndrome

We all understand the organization of a beehive. The queen gets rid of the competition and lives the rest of her life with a host of male drones at her beck and call. Karen Bune, (LawOfficer.com) describes the Queen



Susan Wilson Solovic of smallbizTV.com, notes that "recent research shows that men prefer working for women more than women do." Responses indicate that Queen Bees are typically harder on women than on male employees, giving women tougher assignments and being more critical of the results, often treating female employee disrespectfully in front of others. Some Queen Bees feel that they have to be better than other women at everything-doing ten extra crunches or beating you out of the parking lot. However the behavior manifests itself, it has a debilitating effect on morale, and it stifles creativity and growth.

If you are the victim of a Queen Bee, here are a few suggestions for dealing with her (adapted from www.ehow.com/how_4862104_falling-victim-queen-bee-syndrome.html)

. Focus on doing your job rather than constantly reacting to her behavior.

Have you ever dealt with a Queen Bee? What are your thoughts and ideas?

- . Document any personal attacks with a copy to file describing the episode in detail, who else was present, and what was the effect of the incident.
- Avoid stooping to her level by showing your anger, raising your voice, or, worse, bursting into tears.
- If nothing improves, look for employment elsewhere, either within or outside the company . If you do leave, make sure that you report the behavior to someone who can make a difference.

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