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Subject: Re: Hillbilly Elegy

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 26 Feb 2021 17:22:12 GMT

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Interesting. I've seen stuff like that too. Some of 'em make it, but some don't. It's all about taking action and being willing. If a person is willing to take action to improve themselves - especially if they reach out to the right support organizations - they'll always be successful.

The ones that aren't successful fall into one of many traps. I can spot 'em. The self-sufficient one that has all the answers, the one that blames everyone else for their problems, the one that thinks they don't have a problem, the one that always has an excuse or reason why they "can't," the one that procrastinates, the one that starts strong but then trickles off. There are others, but those are the most common ones I see.

Funny that these misstep traps can happen to a professional as easily as they can to a skid-row bum. It's not just the welfare cases that suffer from generational alcoholism and drug addiction. And sometimes those that have been very successful in life have a harder time getting sober than those that haven't because of their ego.

Then again, I've seen guys that have no home, no car, no job, no skills and no family that are just as arrogant as a guy with a PhD, so narcissism isn't limited to those that are beautiful, popular, intelligent or skilled. An addict on skid-row can be just as arrogant as one that is an executive for a big corporation.

While I know that some of these kinds of things happen to people that aren't addicts, it usually - almost always - happens to people in families where there is alcoholism or drug addiction. Most chemical dependency treatment professionals would say the drugs aren't the cause but rather the symptom, so when we see individuals or families acting this way, there is probably some drug addiction or alcoholism in the family. If not, it is likely to start, because these kinds of behaviors are a root cause.

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