



The Narcissist's Makerspace Manifesto

A Step-by-Step Guide to Seizing Power Without Ever Contributing





Preface: Why This Matters

Makerspaces are built on **collaboration, shared knowledge, and community-driven innovation**. At their best, they create spaces where ideas flourish, and leadership serves the people.

But not all leadership is about service.

Some people step into positions of power **not to build, but to control**. Not to create, but to **claim credit**. Not to support the community, but to **shape it in their image**, demanding obedience while producing nothing of value.

You've probably met this type before.

They infiltrate nonprofits, tech meetups, and online spaces—anywhere **where governance is just loose enough** for them to tighten their grip. They leave behind a **trail of drama, gaslighting, and failed initiatives**. And when it's all said and done, they always **reframe history so they were the victim or the hero**.

This guide is for **anyone who has watched** a community go from thriving to toxic under the influence of a narcissistic leader. It's also a **manual for recognizing the warning signs before it's too late**.

But first—let's take a deep dive into the narcissist's **own** playbook.



◆ Introduction

“Why make things when you can rule?”

Welcome, aspiring narcissistic leader!

Have you ever looked at a thriving makerspace and thought, *Wow, this place would be so much better if everyone just listened to ME?*

Do you find yourself frustrated that people **expect you to actually build, contribute, or lead by example** instead of just recognizing your natural brilliance?

Do you believe that democracy is just a **stepping stone** to your rightful dictatorship?

Then **congratulations!** You're ready to take over your local makerspace!


Follow these steps carefully, and soon, you too will be the **undisputed ruler of an organization where nothing gets built but bureaucracy.**

◆ Chapter 1: How to Gain Power Without Effort

- **Step 1:** Never build. Never teach. Never contribute. **These are activities for peasants.** Instead, insert yourself into leadership **through sheer persistence.**




- **Step 2:** Pretend to be an authority by mastering **one** thing: policy minutiae. No one reads bylaws, so if you **memorize just enough to sound smart**, people will assume you know what you're doing.
- **Step 3:** Talk a lot about **"vision" and "culture."** People will be too afraid to admit they don't know what you actually do.

 **WARNING:** Occasionally, someone will ask what you've personally built. **Deflect immediately.** Say your "real work" is "facilitating others' success." Bonus points if you call yourself a **steward of the community.**

◆ Chapter 2: Bureaucracy Is Your Best Friend

- **Create rules that only you can interpret.** The more convoluted, the better. If someone asks for clarification, just say "It's complicated."
- **Establish "necessary" committees** that you conveniently control. Example:
A committee to streamline decisions (which ironically slows everything down).
A "Governance Task Force" (where you and your friends ensure you remain in charge).
- **Set up membership hurdles.** The best way to control a space is to **limit who gets in.** Make them prove their worth. (To you, of course.)

 **Remember:** If someone suggests simplifying the rules, accuse them of "trying to seize power." Irony is not your concern.



◆ Chapter 3: Gaslighting 101—How to Rewrite History

- If anyone questions your leadership, **act offended**. Say, “I built this place.” Even if you didn’t.
- If you make an unpopular decision, **convince people it was their idea**.
- If someone presents evidence of your manipulation, **flip the script**. Accuse them of being **toxic, obsessed, or a dangerous threat to the community**.

💡 **Best phrases to memorize:**

“I don’t understand why you’re attacking me.”

“People have no idea how much I’ve sacrificed.”

“I’m just trying to protect the culture.”

◆ Chapter 4: How to Eliminate Your Enemies (Without Getting Caught)

- **Identify leaders who are well-liked**. These people are dangerous.
- **Spread rumors about them subtly**.
 - “I don’t want to start drama, but I heard they’re difficult to work with.”
 - “I used to respect them, but they’ve changed.”
 - “We need to watch out for people who are power-hungry.”
- **Push them to quit**. Then blame them for being “too emotional” when they leave.

📝 **If they call out your behavior, accuse them of being the real narcissist. Always strike first.**



◆ Chapter 5: How to Stage a Dramatic Exit (So You Can Come Back Later)

At some point, even your most loyal followers will realize **you produce nothing but chaos.**

When this happens:

Announce that you're stepping away "for the good of the community."

Frame yourself as a victim. Say you were "forced out" by "toxic people."

Wait until the group collapses under the weight of your own policies. Then return as the only person who can fix it.

 **REMEMBER:** No matter how much damage you do, you will always reframe yourself as the hero.

Closing Notes: The Future of Makerspaces Depends on Real Leadership

Satire aside, this pattern is real. It plays out **again and again** in community spaces, nonprofits, and online groups.

But here's the truth: **it doesn't have to be this way.**

Makerspaces—and any community built on shared creativity—thrive when **leadership serves the members, not the other way around.** The best leaders:



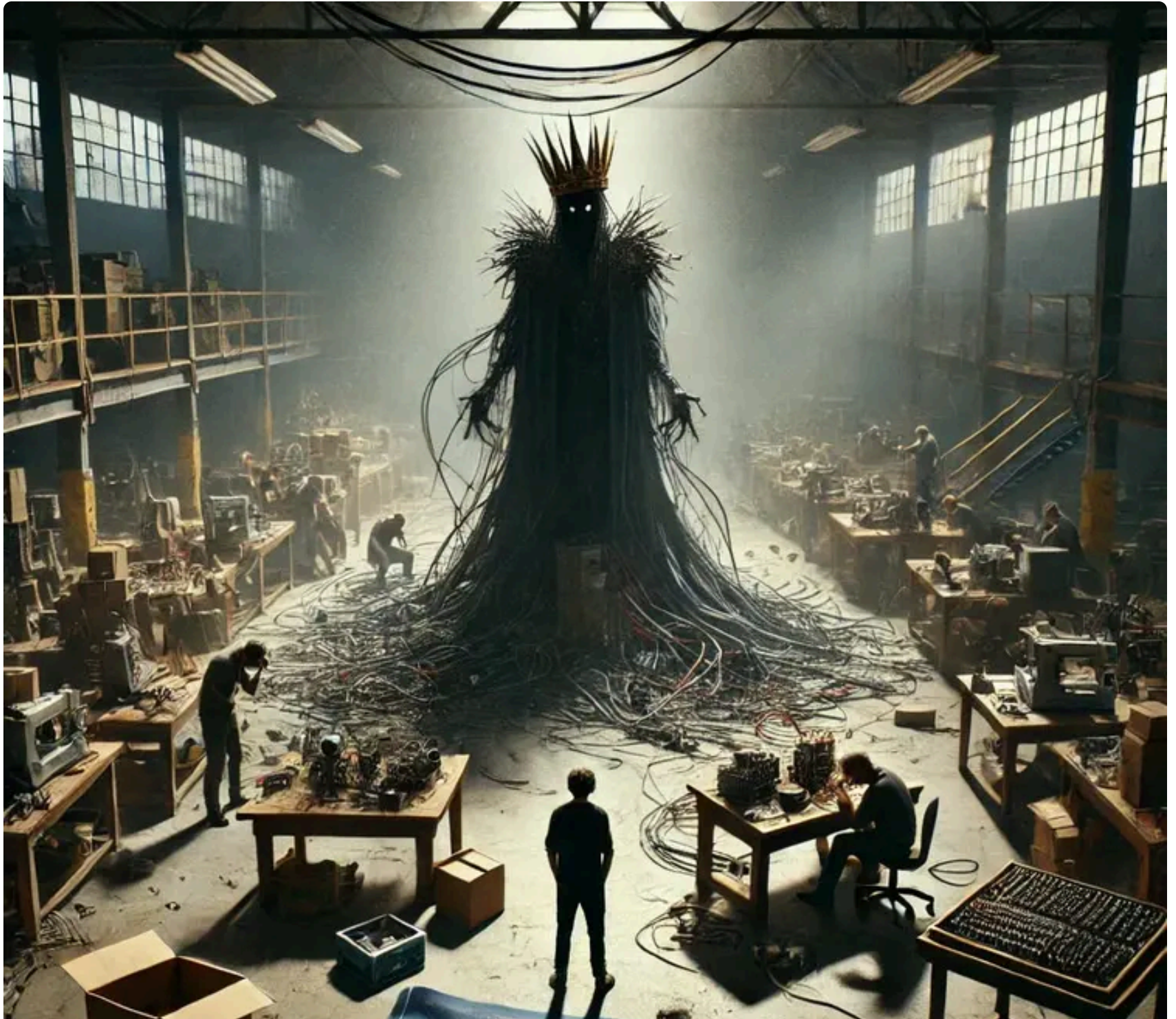
Empower people to build without gatekeeping.

Step aside when it's time for new voices.

Create policies that serve the community, not consolidate power.

So the next time you see someone **acting more like a dictator than a collaborator**, remember:

It's not leadership. It's just another narcissist **trying to control something they could never create.**





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