

Screen Treatment:
Beyond Love Trauma-(For Documentary)
By Paul A. Wagner, Ph.D.

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Logline: A Handbook for the Divorced!

Navigating the After Divorce adult middle and upper middle class singles world for 25 to 58 year olds. **Discover the Three Intimacies and How they Work Together!** Experience the wisdom of active adult singles as they talk about dating from locker rooms to beauty parlors to dinners with friends and late-night sharing. Trying to start over with new relationships.

Genre: Non-Fiction/Self Help, Relationships, Dating and New marriage possibilities . *Finalist, prestigious International Book Awards, 2019.*

Based on over 1,000 interviews of middle-class divorcees, ages 25-58, men and women share what they want in an ideal partner, what options they are finding all too often, what counts as a “good” date-event and what to look for in deciding on subsequent dates with the same person. Finally who should consider re-marriage and who should not.

Chapters include:

- The Web of who you are

- Finding dates: bars/clubs, church groups, charities, hobbyist and exercise clubs, friends, grocery stores, museums and theaters, sports, parents without partners, schooling, self-help groups, online dating, work.
- The ideal man and what women want in a man. What women too often find instead.
- How do men taxonomize women and the ideal woman
- How do women taxonomize men?
- The point of courtship: finding the worthy and not what is worth changing.
- What counts as a good date? Who makes a date “good?”
- Is marriage a good idea? Why marriage cannot make a toxic person non-toxic.
- $2+2 = 11$...This bit of “pop” psychology is more than bad arithmetic.
- The nature of intimacy: physical, emotional and intellectual. Building each.
- Building a common life-project.
- From romance to love: the real deal.

Main Characters:

- Six women, One about twenty-six, two about thirty. One about forty, one about fifty-five.
- Six men, One thirty, three about forty, one about fifty and one about fifty-eight situations.
- One man, a psychological adventurer looks like Harrison Ford and gets people to talk easily.
- One woman, a hospital administrator looks like Kamala Harris.

Settings:

- Hotel room late at night
- Lounge in an upscale fitness club
- Two women sitting in front of a computer screen scanning dating sites and talking
- Two men driving in a Bentley
- Board room of large hospital
- Large university classroom
- A running trail
- An upscale restaurant

Act 1—The Hotel Room; The Set Up

- Important to know what all humans share in common is as important as knowing what individuates us one from another. We each create a “web of belief” throughout life.

- The web's core are non-negotiables; things that cannot be proved but, define how you see everything else to some degree.
- Choices: Half a dozen women are gathered in a hotel room about one or two in the morning. It is their 25th reunion. Several hold wine glasses and they are talking about the perfect man.
- Giggling the all agree that the perfect man is someone like George Clooney. One of them turns serious and asks: "You two are single, what are you finding in men out there?" One says some are social climbers and just looking for an arm piece to polish off a perfect career and others want a nurse. It is not fun out there!
- After a moment, the first says: "I met a Lloyd Cleaver like from that old TV show *Leave it to Beaver*. The guy was handsome, successful, gentlemanly to the core, responsible perfect...but emotionally unavailable for romance.
- Maybe we are going about this the wrong way. Instead of talking about the perfect man or what we are finding instead maybe we should imagine THE perfect man for each one of us.

Act 2-The Running Trail: The Conflict

- One couple is running together. They are talking about his dating. She is married and the flow of information is quite candid and she is very comforting.
- A woman running by herself and a fellow catches up to her. They chat amiably and at the end of the run they exchange phone numbers and agree to dinner sometime.
- Some women and men are stretching at a common stretching area for runners. A couple of women are overheard talking with one saying to the other: "This may not be the best looking group of guys I have seen in awhile but you can nearly always bet these guys have decent jobs and they are here to take care of their bodies – very different from what you find in bars."
- Six months later
- The first couple are running together again. They are talking about flaws in her marriage. They speculate what kind of couple they might have made together. At the end of the run as she gets into her car, he kisses her and she responds.
- Misplaced intellectual and emotional intimacy can tear asunder even a marriage when that intimacy is misplaced. Where you invest your emotional intimacy is where you will see it grow.

Act 3-The Locker Room: The Resolution

- Four guys in a locker room, lounge area talking about women. The men range in age from forty to 58.
- "Fred you should be dating just to get laid. If you happen to fall in love fine but you are wasting a lot of time looking for 'the hot one'. Yeah she was hot. Did you get laid? Yeah,

but that's not the point. What is the point...did she force you? No of course not. But it was just a twinkie going out with some old guy to enjoy the good life."

- Fred asks, "What are you guys looking for, only girls in their late twenties?"
- Girls in their early thirties can hang on to their looks if they work at it but too many are haunted by their biological clock and conflicting desires to succeed at work not to mention on-going conflicts with some ex somewhere. They are a mess of unbridled emotions.
- Fred asks, "What about girls in their late thirties?" The guys answer "They are okay emotionally. They have often come to grips with the biological clock problem and the ex is long gone, but you can't tell us you look for girls by going to the library and looking to see whose reading *Sense and Sensibility* I want to meet her." Fred says of course not but, it is still not all about looks.
- Fred asks the oldest fellow: "Do you ever go out with women your age?" He says rarely. Fred says incredulously, "Don't any of you guys date women over forty – your own age?" One says, "My best women *friends* are all over forty I have to admit."
- They recognize that age relatedness makes for greater friendships (the seeds of intellectual and emotional intimacy) but fear it might cost them some of their manliness in their circle if they go in that direction.
- Your decisions will shape your relational future. Choose wisely, listen to counseling.

Five Star Reviews:



Kindle Customer

5.0 out of 5 stars A great book for surviving your divorce.

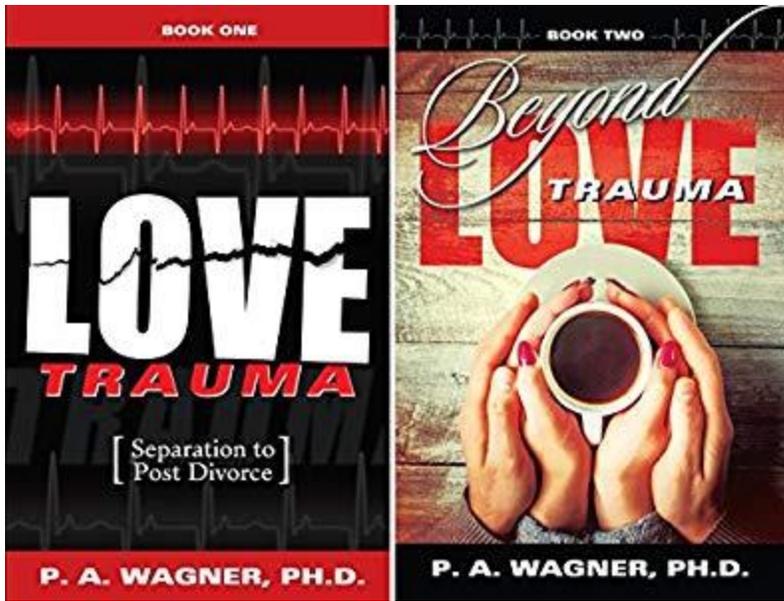
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I love the way Dr. Wagner explains each point. This book is very detailed and each chapter is clear and descriptive in full detail. He helps us understand divorce. It's not a comfortable situation, but with this book, I believe the process can be more comfortable.

The perfect book for people to know that divorce is not the end and we can survive beyond it.

"Dr. Wagner's writing style is so friendly and comforting. Yet, the wisdom he portrays calling on scholars and ordinary people alike is palpable." J. Hanna.



Paul Wagner, Ph.D. University of Missouri, now a Professor of Psychology at University of Houston, Clear Lake, Texas with affiliations with Harvard, Yale and Stanford Universities over the past 35 years. He worked closely with Texas Ethics Commission and the LBJ School at the University of Texas to sponsor an annual ethics workshop for senior State Officials.

He has worked closely with many psychologists, taken relevant law school classes and taught a course entitled, *Philosophy of Sex and Love*. In his books, Wagner discusses the Three Intimacies: 1. Sexual 2. Intellectual 3. Emotional.

His books are based on over 1,000 interviews of middle-class divorcees from ages 25-55.

***Beyond Love Trauma* was a finalist in the prestigious International Book Awards in 2019.**