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Singled Out: How Singles Are Stereotyped, Stigmatized, And Ignored, And Still Live Happily Ever After



Synopsis

People who are single are changing the face of America. Did you know that: * More than 40 percent of the nation's adults---over 87 million people---are divorced, widowed, or have always been single. * There are more households comprised of single people living alone than of married parents and their children. * Americans now spend more of their adult years single than married. * Many of today's single people have engaging jobs, homes that they own, and a network of friends. This is not the 1950s---singles can have sex without marrying, and they can raise smart, successful, and happy children. It should be a great time to be single. Yet too often single people are still asked to defend their single status by an onslaught of judgmental peers and fretful relatives. * Prominent people in politics, the popular press, and the intelligentsia have all taken turns peddling myths about marriage and singlehood. Marry, they promise, and you will live a long, happy, and healthy life, and you will never be lonely again. * Drawing from decades of scientific research and stacks of stories from the front lines of singlehood, Bella DePaulo debunks the myths of singledom---and shows that just about everything you've heard about the benefits of getting married and the perils of staying single are grossly exaggerated or just plain wrong. Although singles are singled out for unfair treatment by the workplace, the marketplace, and the federal tax structure, they are not simply victims of this singlism. Single people really are living happily ever after. * Filled with bracing bursts of truth and dazzling dashes of humor, *Singled Out* is a spirited and provocative read for the single, the married, and everyone in between. * You will never think about singlehood or marriage the same way again. * *Singled Out* debunks the Ten Myths of Singlehood, including: * Myth #1: The Wonder of Couples: Marrieds know best. * Myth #3: The Dark Aura of Singlehood: You are miserable and lonely and your life is tragic. * Myth #5: Attention, Single Women: Your work won't love you back and your eggs will dry up. Also, you don't get any and you're promiscuous. * Myth #6: Attention, Single Men: You are horny, slovenly, and irresponsible, and you are the scary criminals. Or you are sexy, fastidious, frivolous, and gay. * Myth #7: Attention, Single Parents: Your kids are doomed. * Myth #9: Poor Soul: You will grow old alone and you will die in a room by yourself where no one will find you for weeks. * Myth #10: Family Values: Let's give all of the perks, benefits, gifts, and cash to couples and call it family values. * "With elegant analysis, wonderfully detailed examples, and clear and witty prose, * DePaulo lays out the many, often subtle denigrations and discriminations faced by single adults in the U.S. * She addresses, too, the resilience of single women and men in the face of such singlism. * A must-read for all single adults, their friends and families, as well as social scientists and policy advocates."---E. Kay Trimberger, author of *The New Single*

Woman

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Customer Reviews

DePaulo fastidiously defines the various categories of singlehood-divorced, widowed or just plain never been married-and gives their struggle a voice in this intriguing cultural study. According to DePaulo, "singlism" is the pervasive discrimination single people face in politics and everyday life, though DePaulo makes it clear he isn't equating it with racism or sexism. Rather, DePaulo uncovers society's immediate associations-conscious and otherwise-with the word "single," including the implication of loneliness, homosexuality and/or a personal defect that prevents a single person from achieving the dubiously enshrined goal of marriage. In addition, this exhaustive study reveals how marriage has come to represent the foundation of both American society and politics, and how the resulting system of discrimination pervades even in this modern age of financial freedom-including increased tax burdens, decreased social security benefits, and real-world wage disparity. In identifying the stigmas of being single and debunking myths like "marrieds know best," DePaulo has given this complicated subject the attention and respect it deserves, opening a dialogue without offering any pat solutions. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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She addresses, too, the resilience of single women and men in the face of such singlism. "A must-read for all single adults, their friends and families, as well as social scientists and policy advocates." ---E. Kay Trimberger, author of *The New Single Woman* "It's time for America to become acquainted with its new 'unmarried majority.' *Singled Out* debunks myths and stereotypes about single people and lays the groundwork for social, political, and economic change - change that is long overdue in government policies and business practices." -- Thomas F. Coleman, Executive Director, Unmarried America

Marital-status discrimination is a real thing. Read this book to find out more. Recommended.

Excellent book, and very helpful to me. I really appreciate Bella's accuracy. She did a lot of real research to get to the truth in this book. I laughed a great deal at the unbelievable ignorance with most of society. Well, I can't thank you enough for writing this. This book was healing as well as inspiring. Respectfully :)

This is certainly a very interesting topic to write about and a controversial subject where there may never be a definitive answer. I like how the author attempts to list all being single "myth" and dispel them one by one using scientific proof and displaying "facts" based on various studies. Ultimately I believed, how you feel about yourself is due in no small part how society feels about you. In short, if society thinks you should feel lonely and desperate and "weird" for being single, then odds are good that you are feeling that exact sentiments about yourself. We don't live in vacuum and for better or worse, society values and views are becoming our values and views as well. Singles, whether they choose to be or not, may still live happily ever after of course. But the constant need to justify to the world of their "singleness" may be a huge burden and that may lead many people who are perfectly happy alone, to opt-out of their single life during some part of their life just to rid of the constant "nagging" by the society. This may help explain why someone would spend thousands of dollars on online dating websites, get rejected by countless matches over the years and still wanted to be in the "game". To be not married, by some societies if not most, meant not be "accepted". Contrary to the notion that we all want to be unique and special in this current narcissistic rampant world, we all want to be and feel "accepted" by the society. The billion dollar online dating industry would shudder in fear the day when this book becomes mainstream and highly accepted as a matter of fact. It is a futile exercise to prove or disprove anything written in this book and its not the point. It certainly makes a thought-provoking read and get us thinking about many things in life that we take for

granted.

I greatly appreciate Ms. DePaulo writing this book. As a single woman with no desire to be otherwise I have experienced most of the discrimination and frustration that she describes and am grateful to know that I am not the only one.

Simultaneously laugh out loud funny and aching true, this book has helped me to understand my own journey. The societal pressure to marry may steer some of us who actually are happily single onto a proverbial road that leads nowhere (other than divorce court). The statistics and the personal observations DePaulo shares validate my own experience. Thank you for writing this book!

An interesting composite of the many ways that singles live, and the various ways that they are discriminated against. Particularly covers the financial aspects of the price paid by singles compared to couples and the unfairness of that. Also covers the smug couples way of treating single friends like second class citizens, excluding them from many events or expecting them to go along with the couples decisions regarding places to eat or stay. All this even though single people are perfectly happy with their lives and make up close to half the population of marriage age people. Still, singles manage to live quite happily in many different living arrangements!

I think depaulo did a terrific job explaining all aspects of a growing singles demographic. I really liked the part about " how political candidates are often described " terms like .. " well grounded people...good family people".. often being reserved for married candidates. Mike e

This is good read for anyone open minded enough to accept it does happen. It was a relief for me to find it and realize I wasn't alone. The author does a great job, and good humor.

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