

The Widow's Guide to Sex and Dating: A Novel

By Carole Radziwill



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?Publishers Weekly

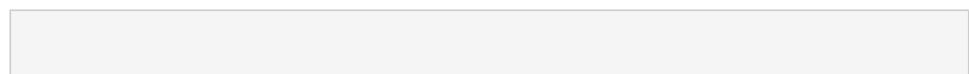
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?BookPage

"Carole Radziwill writes like a cross between Sophie Kinsella and Christopher Buckley. Cautiously romantic, unexpectedly moving, and funny!" ?Susan Sarandon

***The Widow's Guide to Sex and Dating* is Carole Radziwill's deliciously smart comedy about a famously widowed young New Yorker hell-bent on recapturing a kind of passionate love she never really had**

Claire Byrne is a quirky and glamorous 34-year-old Manhattanite and the wife of a famous, slightly older man. Her husband, Charlie, is a renowned sexologist and writer. Equal parts Alfred Kinsey and Warren Beatty, Charlie is pompous yet charming, supportive yet unfaithful; he's a firm believer that sex and love can't coexist for long, and he does little to hide his affairs. Claire's life with Charlie is an always interesting if not deeply devoted one, until Charlie is struck dead one day on the sidewalk by a falling sculpture ... a Giacometti, no less!

Once a promising young writer, Claire had buried her ambitions to make room for Charlie's. After his death, she must reinvent herself. Over the course of a year, she sees a shrink (or two), visits an oracle, hires a "botanomanist," enjoys an erotic interlude (or ten), eats too little, drinks too much, dates a hockey player, dates a billionaire, dates an actor (not any actor either, but the handsome movie star every woman in the world fantasizes about dating). As she grieves for Charlie and searches for herself, she comes to realize that she has an opportunity to find something bigger than she had before?maybe even, possibly, love.



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The Widow's Guide to Sex and Dating: A Novel By Carole Radziwill Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

When Claire Byrne's intellectual husband dies in a freak accident with a falling sculpture (a fake, at that), she must figure out how to be a widow. Her marriage was defined by the age gap, Charles' insistence (academic and otherwise) that there is either love or sex (not both), and his frequent infidelities. Claire has almost no identity of her own, and she is convinced by friends to lose her widowed virginity and move on. Radziwill's first novel (after her memoir, *What Remains*, 2005) is a very New York book, even when Claire travels to L.A. to interview (and sleep with) a movie star. There is a constant war between lightness and heaviness in the subject, in the story, and in the telling that seems intrinsic to city dwellers. The plot features a lot of takeout, and Claire sees multiple therapists, a psychic, and a botanomanist to get herself sorted out, which, by the end, she more or less does. Radziwill's book may receive extra coverage due to her association with the Kennedys and her appearance on *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*. --Susan Maguire

Review

"If you are looking for the perfect fast-paced, light hearted, humorous novel, consider your search to be over. Carole Radziwill's debut novel, *The Widow's Guide to Sex and Dating* earns five out of five stars. Radziwill's novel is the perfect book for your solo reading or your next book club. The title is tongue-in-cheek, so you won't find yourself delving into deep grief issues. Instead, you will be carving out time to lose yourself in this splendid novel. Humor permeates Radziwill's writing, and the dialogue is flawless . . . The complete triple package--joy, humor, and romance." *?The Huffington Post*

"One of the richest, most deeply satisfying stories I've read in a long time . . . [Radziwill's] spare writing and wry voice make *The Widow's Guide* an exhilarating, insightful and moving story about loss and identity." *?BookPage*

"Claire's story is comedic from the first page, skipping over the stages of grief straight to 'acceptance.' And, through multiple bad dates, a firework romance with Hollywood's leading man, and a lot of over analyzing, the humor stays throughout her entire journey of re-discovering herself." *?Justin Jones, The Daily Beast*

"A serious attempt to do something comic, a novel about grief and starting again that feels like the product of lived experience." *?Salon.com*

"From the author of the best-selling memoir *What Remains* comes a cheeky, affecting debut novel about a woman grieving for her husband and gradually learning to get back in the game" *?O, The Oprah Magazine*

"Witty and charming, Carole Radziwill's first novel is a delight. I fell in love with the character of Claire--a modern-day Holly Golightly." *?Candace Bushnell, author of Sex and the City and The Carrie Diaries*

"Carole Radziwill writes like a cross between Sophie Kinsella and Christopher Buckley. *Widow's Guide* is a sharp, flamboyant New York novel that revels in the tragicomic absurdities of the city. It's a smart take on Hollywood, too, with gorgeous movie stars and a quirky cast. Cautiously romantic, unexpectedly moving, and *funny!*" *?Susan Sarandon*

"Glib, comic. . . [a] novel about a young Manhattan widow looking for love in all the wrong places . . . This may be a grief and recovery story for the privileged, but sharp-fanged Radziwill can be pretty funny . . . Think *Sex and the City* in black." *?Kirkus*

“Claire never thought about the odds of losing her husband. But after a freak accident abruptly ends her husband's life, she is forced to wrestle with the question, "What next?" For the next year, Claire's life takes a wild turn . . . and somewhere in the middle of the madness, she begins to realize that her old life wasn't so perfect and perhaps this is all a blessing in disguise--a second chance at life and love. Verdict: Fans of authors such as Jane Green and Madeleine Wickham will enjoy this.” ?*Library Journal*

“I couldn't put the book down It's fun and fast and filled with lines that make the whole book enjoyable. Like: 'A husband dies and the world gets just another widow. A wife dies, and a star is born.' The book is undoubtedly entertaining Radziwill recasts the traditional widow for us.” ?*The Rumpus*

“Radziwill's delicious debut novel . . . is a poignant tale of love and loss.” ?*Publishers Weekly*

“The book's witty humor and Didion-esque raw language provide for a gripping read that triumphantly announces a profound new voice in literary fiction.” ?*Popbytes.com*

“A hilarious account of a young widow's journey to find herself and re-establish her identity.” ?*PW Show Daily*

About the Author

Carole Radziwill grew up in upstate New York and earned a BA at Hunter College and an MBA at New York University. She spent more than a decade at ABC News, reporting from around the world, and earned three Emmys. Her first book, *What Remains*, a memoir, spent over twenty weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list. She has written for many magazines, including *Marie Claire*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Glamour*. She currently is a star of and "the voice of reason" on Bravo's *The Real Housewives of New York*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mark Armstrong:

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