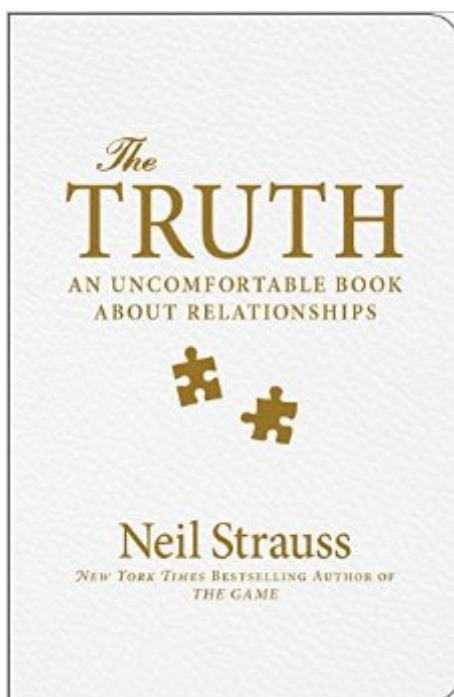


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# The Truth: An Uncomfortable Book About Relationships



## Synopsis

This is not a journey that was undertaken for journalistic purposes. It is a painfully honest account of a life crisis that was forced on me by my own behavior and its consequences. "As such, it requires sharing a lot of things I'm not proud of" and a few things I feel like I should regret a whole lot more than I actually do. Because, unfortunately, I am not the hero in this tale. I am the villain." So begins Neil Strauss's long-awaited follow-up to *The Game*, the funny and slyly instructive work of immersive journalism that jump-started the international "seduction community" and made Strauss a household name—revered or notorious—among single men and women alike. In *The Truth*, Strauss takes on his greatest challenge yet: Relationships. And in this wild and highly entertaining ride, he explores the questions that men and women are asking themselves every day: Is it natural to be faithful to one person for life? Do alternatives to monogamy lead to better relationships and greater happiness? What draws us to the partners we choose? Can we keep passion and romance from fading over time? His quest for answers takes him from Viagra-laden free-love orgies to sex addiction clinics, from cutting-edge science labs to modern-day harems, and, most terrifying of all, to his own mother. What he discovered changed everything he knew about love, sex, relationships, and, ultimately, himself. Searingly honest and compulsively readable, *The Truth* just may have the same effect on you. If *The Game* taught you how to meet members of the opposite sex, *The Truth* will teach you how to keep them.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I remember stumbling across the author's other book, *The Game*, a few years ago. I'm a woman

and the description of the book immediately made me think of this womanizing ex-coworker of mine, who used to brag about his conquests as if he's reaping the rewards of the unresolved daddy issues of these beautiful women. And it all worked because he knew a thing or two about manipulation and games. Needless to say, I rolled my eyes and move on with my online book shopping never expecting to read any of his books. Recently, an author I do like and subscribe to, sent an email about this book and bits and pieces from the book. I got a bit intrigued and decided to purchase this to diversify my book collection, which is starting to look lopsided subject-wise. When the book arrived, I started to read it and couldn't put it down. The Truth is intriguing, funny, heartfelt, sometimes annoying and whiny, sometimes makes you want to go up to the author and smack him upside his bald head, and other times you root for him, empathize, and sympathize. And truthfully, you want the happy ending. It is a roller coaster ride of monogamy, psychotherapy, various alternative relationships, orgies, and harems. The author has the writing ability to take you on a journey with him as he bares the entirely human side of him, flaws and all. He is not always like-able but you stick around to see what happens to him. And sprinkled throughout the book are some interesting situations that you wouldn't otherwise witness, some thought provoking questions, and bits and pieces about attachment theory and psychotherapy that the reader can think about and look into while reading this book. The author has a simplistic style of writing and it is an enjoyable book to read.

Timeo Danaos et dona ferentesâ œl fear all Greeks, even those bearing giftsâ • -Vergil, the Aeneid  
This book is interesting mostly as a character study of its author, Neil Strauss. I read The Game and found fascinating the extent to which he craved respect and admiration from others, and to feel superior to them. The whole book was an exercise in power, in letting everyone know that though he wasnâ™t good-looking, he was smart enough to manipulate women into sleeping with him anyway, cool enough to socialize with celebrities without being star struck, and talented enough to write for influential publications like the NY Times. In this book, too, there is no doubt that Strauss is a master manipulator. He writes about feeling dorky, or ashamed, inviting our sympathy and drawing us into the story, making us care. Then he âœshowsâ • us that heâ™s actually not a dork by having lots of threesomes with women, because most people think that having a threesome in itself makes you cool. But now heâ™s inside our heads, the place he most longs to be âœ in control of our thoughts and emotions (or so he hopes). So one of the things about this book is that it is structured like Homerâ™s Odyssey. Though Strauss mentions Odysseus and James Joyceâ™s Ulysses, he never explicitly communicates that he actually models the book on the epic poem itself

“ this is because he wants to feel smarter and more cultured than the people reading his book “  
itâ™s his own little private joke on us, to make him feel powerful. And I suppose he thinks that  
heâ™s impressing those of us who do get the allusions (witches and guides and siren songs for  
example) and cute little references (he names his dog Hercules).

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