



How to Sleep Alone in a King-Size Bed: A Memoir of Starting Over

By Theo Pauline Nestor



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"I feel like I've joined an enormous club, something like the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We are weary with battle fatigue and sometimes even gripped by nostalgia for the good old, bad old days, but our numbers are large," writes Theo Pauline Nestor in this wry, fiercely honest chronicle of life after divorce.

Less than an hour after confronting her husband over his massive gambling losses, Theo banishes him from their home forever. With two young daughters to support and her life as a stay-at-home mother at an abrupt end, Nestor finds herself slipping from "middle-class grace" as she attends a court-ordered custody class, stumbles through job interviews, and—much to her surprise—falls in love once again. As Theo rebuilds her life and recovers her sense of self, she's forced to confront her own family's legacy of divorce. "I'm from a long line of stock market speculators, artists of unmarketable talents, and alcoholics," writes Nestor. "The higher, harder road is not our road. We move, we divorce, we drink, or we disappear."

Nestor's journey takes her deep into her family's past, to a tiny village in Mexico, where she discovers the truth about how her sister ended up living in a convent there after their parents divorced in the early sixties. What she learns ultimately brings her closer to understanding her own divorce and its impact on her two daughters. "I knew from experience that for children divorce means half the world is constantly eclipsed. When you're with one parent, the other must always slip out of view," Nestor writes.

Funny, openhearted, and brave, *How to Sleep Alone in a King-Size Bed* will speak to anyone who has passed through the halls of divorce court or risked tenderness after loss. It marks the debut of an enchanting, deeply truthful voice.

From the Hardcover edition.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A full-time mom and a part-time professor at the nearby University of Washington, Nestor had been married 12 years, raising two children with the man she loved. Then one afternoon, she discovered her husband had been using her bank card. He had a gambling problem, and she'd already warned him, if it started again, it would end their marriage. They agreed to have a good divorce, but Nestor had no idea how to reimagine her life as a single mother. As Nestor moves through what she's told are the three stages of divorce—shock/denial, adjustment and acceptance—she discovers she's a lot more resilient than she'd ever thought. She has good parenting instincts and some solid friends. With cheerfully self-deprecating humor, Nestor shares her divorce process, always giving generous credit to the family and friends who helped her, and in her telling she offers hope that if that's what readers are facing, they, too, can manage. (*Apr.*) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

- "Theo has a big heart, a real feeling for the pain and craziness of human life."
- —Frank McCourt, author of Angela's Ashes
- "Theo Nestor has an uncommon ability to evoke common yet very intense emotions. *How to Sleep Alone in a King-Size Bed* is smart, astringent, funny, precise, candid, and possesses not an ounce of self-pity."
- —David Shields, author of The Thing About Life Is That One Day You'll Be Dead
- "Heartbreakingly honest, wryly funny, and revelatory . . . [Nestor's] clever and relatable prose makes her tale endearing and insightful, and she sidesteps the clichés of a woman wounded with bittersweet honesty."

 —LadiesHomeJournal.com

"A divorced mother's funny, chatty, revealing take on Splitsville—with just enough anguish and sadness to be utterly believable...An unexpected treat here is a vivid portrait of the author's thrice-married, utterly nonmaternal but generous mother...Women going through the pain and turmoil of separation and divorce will appreciate Nestor's candor and wit. Not another slick how-to, but a comforting reminder that life goes on after the spouse is gone." —*Kirkus*

From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author

THEO PAULINE NESTOR teaches writing at the University of Washington. Her essay "The Chicken's in the Oven, My Husband's out the Door" was published in the *New York Times* "Modern Love" column and was the genesis of this book. She lives in Seattle, Washington, with her two daughters.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Hattie Leclair:

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