

The Second Wives' Club: Secrets for Becoming Lovers for Life

Lenore Millian

Stephen Millian

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In the book turned film, *The First Wives Club*, three spurned women plot to take down the husbands who wronged them by seeking different (and younger) wives after years of a first marriage. Wife and husband team Lenore and Stephen Millian, a clinical psychologist and a recognized virologist respectively, explore the sometimes rough terrain that second wives must traverse in order to live happy matrimonial lives, giving a fuller picture of second spouses than the aforementioned movie's tightly dressed, gum popping trophy wives.

After becoming a second wife herself, Lenore was blissful in the marriage, until Stephen came out of anesthesia mumbling his first wife's name. After that moment, the marriage took a turn toward honesty, and the pair focused on exactly how an ex-wife can still be very much a part of a man's life and, by extension, his new wife's.

This self-help work should bring comfort to second wives everywhere who may feel jealousy or resentment about "their" children or friends versus "ours." With a jaunty, upbeat tone, the Millians focus on six attributes that they feel are vital to a second chance relationship: loyalty, openness, trust, empathy, respect and stability. They take the reader through common situations that have arisen in Lenore's clinical practice, explaining how deeply past relationships can affect a present marriage, especially during its first years. Self-diagnostic quizzes at the end of each chapter help bring a sense of positive focus, artfully giving readers practical advice and comfort.

ELIZABETH MILLARD (November / December 1999)

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