



Great Philosophers Who Failed at Love

By Andrew Shaffer

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Few people have failed at love as spectacularly as the great philosophers. Although we admire their wisdom, history is littered with the romantic failures of the most sensible men and women of every age, including:

- **Friedrich Nietzsche:** "Ah, women. They make the highs higher and the lows more frequent." (Rejected by everyone he proposed to, even when he kept asking and asking.)
- **Jean-Paul Sartre:** "There are of course ugly women, but I prefer those who are pretty." (Adopted his mistress as his daughter.)
- **Louis Althusser:** "The trouble is there are bodies and, worse still, sexual organs." (Accidentally strangled his wife to death.)

And dozens of other great thinkers whose words we revere--but whose romantic decisions we should avoid at all costs.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Shaffer's jaunty compendium of highbrow heartbreak provides proof positive that even the most brilliant of minds can fall afoul of Cupid—and offers some measure of hope to the lovelorn. He profiles 37 great Western thinkers, detailing the sometimes lurid, always disastrous ways their love lives imploded. The brisk biographies paint a picture of the pitfalls of marriage, dating, and love, but also a philosophy primer. And after learning that Louis Althusser accidentally murdered his wife, that Albert Camus divorced his wife after discovering she was sleeping with a doctor in exchange for morphine, that Friedrich Nietzsche engaged in sexual intercourse on several occasions on doctor's orders, and that Martin Heidegger discovered his son was the product of an affair between his wife and a family friend, almost everyone will feel better about his or her love life. (Jan.)

Review

“‘Great Philosophers Who Failed at Love’ extends the schadenfreude to the boudoir.” (New York Times Book Review)

“A funny and oddly moving history of philosophy as tortured erotic dysfunction.” (Neal Pollack, author of *Stretch: The Unlikely Making of a Yoga Dude*)

“Fascinating, thought-provoking and mildly disturbing... Also, if you are considering dating an eminent philosopher, you need to buy this right now.” (A.J. Jacobs, New York Times Bestselling Author of *The Year of Living Biblically* and *The Know-It-All*)

“Indispensable advice for all lovers—and especially for those who think they should learn about the art of love from philosophers. A wonderful summary of the musings on love by some of history’s greatest and most idiosyncratic minds.” (Clancy Martin, editor of *Love, Lies, and Marriage*)

“Amazing stories! Incredible quotes! Sordid details! This book shows that a genius in the realm of thought can be a dummy in the land of love. It’s a hilarious and provocative warning, full of cautionary tales for us all. Enjoy it and share it with someone you love!” (Tom Morris, author of *If Aristotle Ran General Motors*)

“[A]n entertaining romp through the seamy side of philosophy... highlighting the hypocrisy and downright ineptness of those who too often counted as our ‘greatest thinkers’ in this crucial, if so often overlooked, area of sexual politics...” (Martin Cohen, editor of *The Philosopher*)

“A fun way to learn about the lives and loves of the great thinkers.” (William Irwin, co-editor of *The Simpsons and Philosophy*)

“Shaffer’s jaunty compendium of highbrow heartbreak provides proof positive that even the most brilliant of minds can fall afoul of Cupid—and offers some measure of hope to the lovelorn.” (Publishers Weekly)

“If you’re in dutch with your valentine, give him Andrew Shaffer’s book, which recounts the tortured love lives of 37 thinkers. Compared to them, you’ll look as saintly as St. Thomas himself—who, Shaffer tells us, once chased a prostitute out of his room with a hot poker.” (Martha Stewart *Whole Living*)

“Eye-opening, funny, and frequently shocking.” (the Cedar Rapids Gazette)

“[An] amusing essay in highbrow schadenfreude...most of the philosophers, giant throbbing intellects and all, simply screwed up like the rest of us.” (Maclean's)

From the Back Cover

Few people have failed at love as spectacularly as the great philosophers. Although we admire their wisdom, history is littered with the romantic failures of the most sensible men and women of every age.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jack Unger:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information presently can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even restricted. What people must be consider while those information which is from the former life are challenging to be find than now could be taking seriously which one works to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take Great Philosophers Who Failed at Love as your daily resource information.

Robert Perkins:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book specifically book entitled Great Philosophers Who Failed at Love your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a publication then become one type conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get just before. The Great Philosophers Who Failed at Love giving you yet another experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful facts for your better life within this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Anita Rodriguez:

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Naomi Harris:

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