

NONFICTION

International bestseller about the relationship between the sexes

Love in a Time of Loneliness

PAUL VERHAEGHE

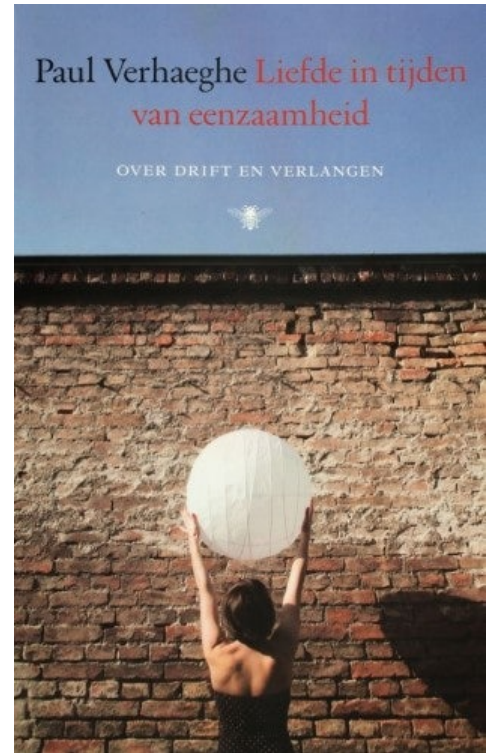
In 'Love in a Time of Loneliness', Paul Verhaeghe goes in search of the things that motivate us most yet paralyze us at the same time: love and sexuality. What has changed over recent decades in the ways the two sexes relate to each other? That question is the starting point for three critical treatments of contemporary sexual relationships between men and women, the aim being to identify those things that have not changed at all.

The book is both entertaining and intellectually challenging.

JOURNAL OF APPLIED PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDIES

Verhaeghe looks into the differences between male and female sexual fantasies and recasts the Freudian antithesis, Eros and Thanatos, as a contrast between two different forms of sexual pleasure. The fact that this conflict between the forces of life and death largely plays itself out between men and women shows that the difference between the sexes goes much deeper than habitual role patterns, which are always tied to specific eras. And what do the Oedipus complex and power have to do with all this? Lastly he investigates why cultural changes, such as those introduced by the sexual revolution, have not only liberated male-female relationships but made them more problematic as well.

This is an incisive and enlightening analysis.



AUTHOR



Paul Verhaeghe (b. 1955) is a clinical psychologist, psychoanalyst and a professor at the University of Ghent. With 'Between Hysteria and Woman' and 'On Normality and Other Aberrations' he achieved international recognition as an expert on Freud and Lacan. With *Love in Times of Loneliness* he reaches a broad audience, and has done that with his books ever since.

ORIGINAL TITLE *Liefde in tijden van eenzaamheid* (2011, De Bezige Bij, 253 pp.)

RIGHTS SOLD English (Karnac Books), French (Denoël), German (Turia + Kant), Spanish (Paidós), Finnish (Unkn.), Simplified Chinese (Sangya Culture Media Company), Turkish (Encore), Slovenian (Orbis), Slovak (Drewo a srd)

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