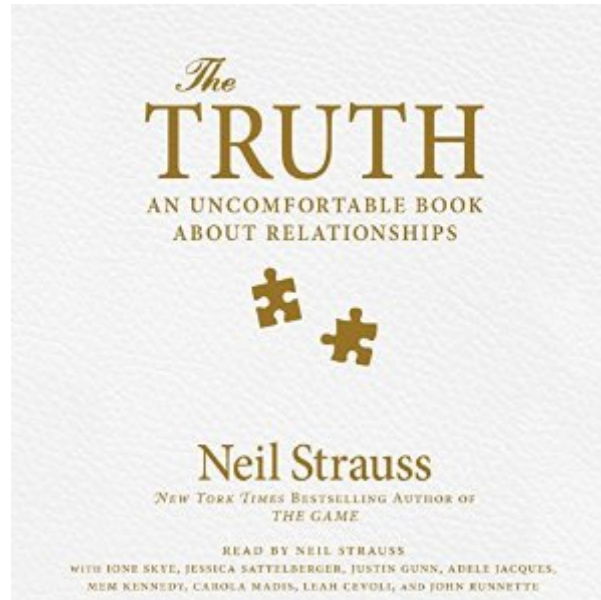


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# The Truth



## Synopsis

From the author of the blockbuster best seller *The Game*: a shockingly personal, surprisingly relatable, brutally honest memoir in which the celebrated dating expert confronts the greatest challenge he has ever faced: monogamy and fidelity. Neil Strauss became famous to millions around the world as the author of *The Game*, a funny and slyly instructive account of how he transformed himself from a scrawny, insecure nerd into the ultraconfident, ultrasuccessful "pickup artist" known as *Style*. The book jump-started the international "seduction community" and made Strauss a household name - revered or notorious - among single men and women alike. But the experience of writing *The Game* also transformed Strauss into a man who could have what every man wants: the ability to date - and/or have casual sex with - almost every woman he met. The results were heady, to be sure. But they also conditioned him to view the world as a kind of constant parade of women, sex, and opportunity - with intimacy and long-term commitment taking a backseat. That is until he met the woman who forced him to choose between herself and the parade. The choice was not only difficult, it was wrenching. It forced him deep into his past, to confront not only the moral dimensions of his pickup lifestyle but also a wrenching mystery in his childhood that shaped the man he became. It sent him into extremes of behavior that exposed just how conflicted his life had become. And it made him question everything he knew about himself, and about the way men and women live with and without each other. He would never be the same again. Searingly honest, compulsively listenable, this new book may have the same effect on you.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 16 hours and 50 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: HarperAudio

Audible.com Release Date: October 13, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B00RMGSJY4

Best Sellers Rank: #22 in Books > Self-Help > Sex #32 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Health, Mind & Body > Family & Relationships #64 in Books > Self-Help > Relationships > Love & Romance

## 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 ferentes* • œl fear all Greeks, even those bearing gifts • -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 wasn'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 shows us that he'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 he's inside our heads, the place he most longs to be "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 Homer's *Odyssey*. Though Strauss mentions Odysseus and James Joyce's

Ulysses, he never explicitly communicates that he actually models the book on the epic poem itself  
â “ this is because he wants to feel smarter and more cultured than the people reading his book â “  
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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