



# An Available Man: A Novel

*Hilma Wolitzer*

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In this tender and funny novel, award-winning author Hilma Wolitzer mines the unpredictable fallout of suddenly becoming single later in life, and the chaos and joys of falling in love the second time around. When Edward Schuyler, a modest and bookish sixty-two-year-old science teacher, is widowed, he finds himself ambushed by female attention. There are plenty of unattached women around, but a healthy, handsome, available man is a rare and desirable creature. Edward receives phone calls from widows seeking love, or at least lunch, while well-meaning friends try to set him up at dinner parties. Even an attractive married neighbor offers herself to him.

The problem is that Edward doesn't *feel* available. He's still mourning his beloved wife, Bee, and prefers solitude and the familiar routine of work, gardening, and bird-watching. But then his stepchildren surprise him by placing a personal ad in *The New York Review of Books* on his behalf. Soon the letters flood in, and Edward is torn between his loyalty to Bee's memory and his growing longing for connection. Gradually, reluctantly, he begins dating ("dating after death," as one correspondent puts it), and his encounters are variously startling, comical, and sad. Just when Edward thinks he has the game figured out, a chance meeting proves that love always arrives when it's least expected.

With wit, warmth, and a keen understanding of the heart, *An Available Man* explores aspects of loneliness and togetherness, and the difference in the options open to men and women of a certain age. Most of all, the novel celebrates the endurance of love, and its thrilling capacity to bloom anew.

**Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more.**

"Funny, wise and touching."—*The Washington Post*

"Wonderful . . . [Hilma] Wolitzer's vision of the world, for all its sorrow, is often hilarious and always compassionate."—*The New York Times Book Review*

"Smart and poignant, *An Available Man* explores some universal truths—that the past is never past, life is for the living, and dating is really, really hard."—*O: The Oprah Magazine*

"Charming . . . Wolitzer is a champ at the closely observed, droll novel of manners."—NPR

"[Hilma Wolitzer is an] American literary treasure."—*The Boston Globe*

"A deeply satisfying story of love lost and found."—Bookreporter

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