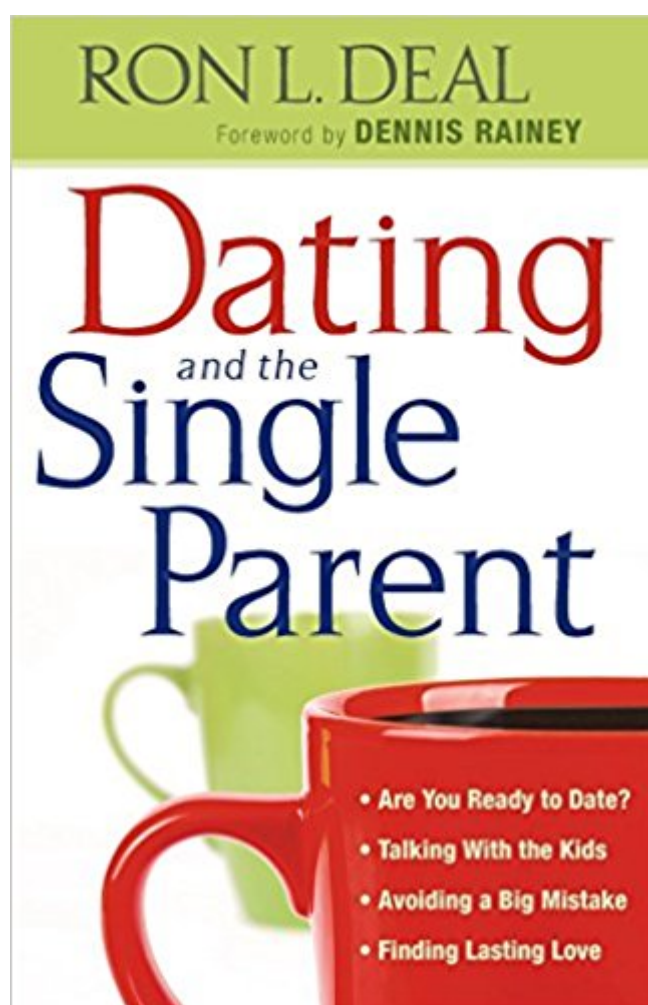


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# Dating And The Single Parent: \* Are You Ready To Date? \* Talking With The Kids \* Avoiding A Big Mistake \* Finding Lasting Love



## Synopsis

Leading stepfamily expert offers single parents a practical guide to dating, helping them make wise decisions, navigate relationships, avoid potential pitfalls, and strengthen their families.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

**Make the Best Dating Decisions Possible** When children are involved, dating gets complicated. Ron Deal gives single parents--as well as those who date them--expert advice on [How to determine if you and the kids are really ready for dating](#), [deal with kids' fears](#), and [recognize red lights in a relationship](#). [What to expect when dating a single parent](#) and when to start spending time with the kids. [Things to consider before getting engaged](#) and how to prepare for life as a stepfamily. Let Ron Deal guide you through the emotional ups and downs of dating with kids. Includes a free online relationship checkup and questions for individual or group study. "This book will help you see beyond the tingly feelings to determine if a dating partner will help you form a healthy family." --from the foreword by Dr. Dennis Rainey, President, FamilyLife "In *Dating and the Single Parent*, Ron Deal points out the common pitfalls and gives wise counsel in how to navigate the waters. I highly recommend it."--Gary Chapman, PhD, author, *The Five Love Languages* "You can trust Ron Deal to shoot straight with you about kids, dating, and finding lasting love."--Dr. Kevin Leman, New York Times bestselling author of *Have a New Kid by Friday*

Ron is a marriage and family author, speaker, and therapist. He is Founder and President of Smart Stepfamilies and Director of Blended Family Ministries for FamilyLife. Ron is author of *The Smart*

Stepfamily, The Smart Stepdad, and Dating and the Single Parent, and coauthor with Laura Petherbridge of The Smart Stepmom and with David H. Olson of The Remarriage Checkup. Ron is a licensed marriage and family therapist and licensed professional counselor who frequently appears in the national media including FamilyLife Today, Focus on the Family, HomeWord, and The 700 Club. He's also been interviewed by Ladies Home Journal, New York Daily News, WGN-TV and ABCnews.com. He is a popular conference speaker and his video series The Smart Stepfamily DVD is used in communities, churches, and homes throughout the world. Ron is a member of the Stepfamily Expert Council for the National Stepfamily Resource Center and is a featured expert on the video curriculum Single and Parenting. Ron and his wife, Nan, and their sons live in Little Rock, Arkansas. For more information, visit [RonDeal.org](http://RonDeal.org) and [SmartStepfamilies.com](http://SmartStepfamilies.com).

This book is certainly beneficial for single parents who are looking to date or are already in a dating relationship. The author discusses and helps dispel many of the fears that accompany the thought of dating again and also lists some important "red stoplights" to keep an eye on while in a relationship. Ron L. Deal does an amazing job of highlighting the importance of both "coupleness" and "familiyness." I think that, more often than not, when couples are excited to remarry, they fall into the myth that the children will share in the couple's excitement. Children move at their own pace, and Deal discusses this truth throughout the book from a solid Christian perspective. My only complaint about this book is the author's constant demand to buy his other books or to attend his seminars. These shameless plugs were annoying and definitely interfered with the flow of the book.

The only "negative" thing I have to say about this book is I wish I had read it before I got remarried. This book is definitely a must-read for ANYONE considering remarriage where children are involved - either your own or someone else's. My husband had 3 children from 2 other women when we married. It has been an extremely difficult journey & this book outlined each of the challenges we have faced personally. I actually had to read this book for a graduate school course, and I think every person who knows someone who is considering remarriage when children are involved needs to tell them about this book. I also had some concerns that were addressed in this book that validated my concerns in a couple of areas. My husband would not receive the information from me, but he was receptive to the information coming from a book. I highly recommend all of Deal's books & his website to all single parents. Excellent book!

This book has some of the best advice out there. It delivers the complete story and highlights that a

remarriage involves more than just the two people getting married but the entire package. The aspects that most people don't address or don't want to address are thoroughly covered by the book and the author gives sound guidance with examples on how to proceed. It has a Christian-based approach, but the message is universal. If you are a single parent considering dating, already dating or almost ready to wed, do yourself a favor and read this book. As a side note, my ex-husband made all of the mistakes getting into a new relationship/marriage/blend family too quickly and without any safeguards. We are all paying for those mistakes now, very dearly, and will into the future.

This book will scare you and make you wonder how this will ever work. But it is this honesty that is necessary to make it work. Very straight forward, lots of practical ideas and HOW to do them. It is a lot of hard work, but now I can put together a plan. My family is worth it!

I am a pastoral counselor and a graduate student in Professional Counseling. I also happen to be fifty-something and dating a single parent. This book was assigned for a course I took at Liberty University. While this book is not a text book (that is a good thing) our course director found it worthy of featuring in the course. I am so glad the director made this decision. This book is frank, practical, and thought provoking. It addresses the hard questions and even harder realities of dating when there are children in the mix, whether minor children or adult children doesn't matter; the pitfalls are there and one is foolish to ignore the dynamics. This book is written from a strong Biblical perspective, as one might expect from Ron Deal, but this book is an integrative work, bringing together spiritual principles and hard data from rigorous scholarly study. Notably, this book accommodates reading from the perspective of the parent and the perspective of the non-parent dating (or contemplating dating) a parent. The book encourages its readers to do the hard work of relationship building. This includes defining the relationship (out loud, with each other) at every step; taking no shortcuts; and being willing to let one's head lead over one's heart when the match is not a good one. This book is good reading for one who desires to do well in the next relationship. This book will not be a fun read for one seeking platitudes and easy assurances that love conquers all.

This book touches key issues related to handling the blending of families with an new dating partner/spouse that I would have otherwise never anticipated. My new partner and I are following closely and noting that our experience is paralleling the examples Ron lays out. We are currently at the point where we know we are serious and would normally be moving to engagement, however,

Ron's insights and guidance have identified the importance of patience in allowing my family to get on the same page with us. Its prayer, patience, listening and communication. This book could not have come to my attention at a more important time! Thanks, Ron.

I gave this book 5 stars because the writer has to be the most innovative single parent strategist in the world. If you want to learn from the best you must learn from Ron L. Deal. By the way, he has a website as well. If you want to find all the "land mines" awaiting you before you embark on a blended family you should begin with this book. He doesn't pull any punches, so be ready for the truth.

While I don't agree with everything the book says, it's a fantastic and solid foundation for dating when you have children. I would call it a must-read even though some of the admonitions are not fun to swallow. Be brave!! Wade in!! It'll be worth the time it takes you to read it.

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