

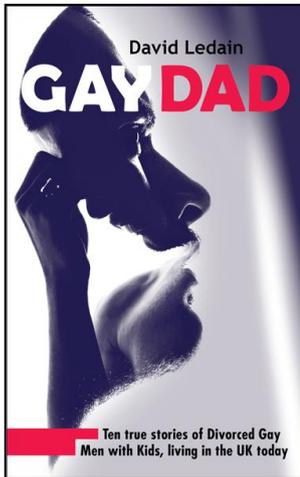
## NEW BOOK PRESS RELEASE

Emotionally-charged, controversial, heart-breaking and inspiring, here are the true-life stories of ten homosexual men who married women and had children before 'coming out' as gay.

**PUBLICATION DATE: MONDAY 13 JUNE 2016 – perfect timing for**

- Father's Day: 19 June 2016 • Pride in London: 25/26 June 2016 •
- Pride in Brighton: 5/6/7 August 2016 • Pride in Manchester: 26/27/28/29 August •

*"I will never get that image out of my mind, of me leaving my wife and two babies on the doorstep as I walked away with a bin bag of clothes to the car, where Marcus was waiting ... Most of my friends and family could not deal with it ... my father didn't talk to me for two years."* Harry



# GAY DAD

TEN TRUE STORIES OF  
**DIVORCED GAY MEN WITH KIDS**  
LIVING IN THE UK TODAY

by David Ledain

Foreword by 'gay dad' **Charlie Condou** (Marcus Dent in *Coronation Street*)

ISBN: 978 1 530636 66 2 Paperback 262 pages RRP: £8.99 June 2016

Also available as an ebook **Facebook page:** [www.facebook.com/gaydadbook](http://www.facebook.com/gaydadbook)

**Why did these gay men marry women and have children with them? What impact has it had on the children? What has happened to their ex-wives? And was it all worthwhile in the end?**

We may never know for sure, how many gay men end up marrying women and having children with them – nor all the reasons that compelled them to do so – but this book gives us unique insights into the lives of some of these men and their families.

Ten gay men from different walks of life explain, in their own words, how and why they ended up married, how they felt about their wives, what happened when they had children – and how they eventually separated from their wives and found new lives as 'gay dads'. This important book also includes meticulously researched information on many aspects of gay-life and LGBT culture as well as examining the teachings of the major world religions on homosexuality and the plight of gay people living in those countries where homosexuality is still illegal and severely punished.

NB: The names of people featured in these true-life accounts have been changed to protect the identities of the men's children, their ex-wives and other members of their families.



**With a foreword by TV's Charlie Condou (former *Coronation Street* actor)**

Charlie lives with his Canadian husband, Cameron Laux, and his daughter and son. The children divide their time between Charlie and their mother, the actress Catherine Kanter. **Charlie says:** *"The stories in Gay Dad are quite different to mine. They come from men who for family, cultural or religious reasons felt unable to live openly as gay men. Instead they entered into marriages and raised children until the pressure of hiding such an important part of themselves became too much, forcing them out of the closet and into much more open and honest lives. ... The right to a family life is considered one of the principal human rights – something that should be available to all, regardless of sexuality. These stories offer us inspiration that change is not just possible, it is wonderful."*

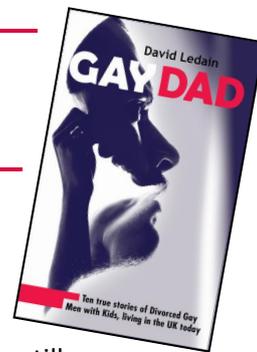
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NEW BOOK PRESS RELEASE continued – PUBLICATION DATE: 13 JUNE 2016

## GAY DAD True-life stories of divorced gay men who have children



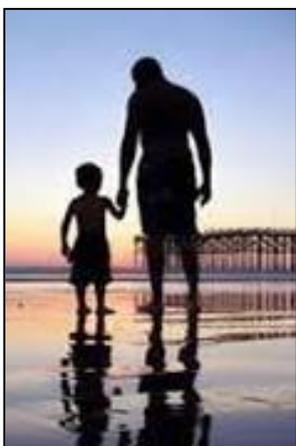
*“Now, my ex-wife and I go to the cinema together on best friend dates, I spend family dinners with her parents, her brothers and sisters still consider me one of their siblings ... my boyfriend is just a new addition to our unique and happy family” Edward*

Many of the men featured in ‘**Gay Dad**’ are now middle-aged and grew up in the 1970s/80s, a time when society was not as accepting of homosexuality – but even in this day and age, there are still homosexual people in the UK who feel unable to ‘come out’ publically for all sorts of reasons. The author, **David Ledain** (a ‘gay dad’ himself) hopes that the true-life accounts of the gay dads featured in this book will be of help to other gay men who married women – and to their wives and children.

**Contents:** In addition to the true-life stories of ten gay dads, the book offers a wealth of information and thought-provoking analysis of topics such as: **the statistics on sexuality • sexual politics • grounds for divorce under UK law • child custody, care and control issues • homosexuality through the ages from ancient cultures to the most recent legislative changes in the UK • the anti-gay countries of the world who still out-law homosexuality • the attitudes of the world’s major religions towards homosexuality • gay pornography and porn addiction • the impact of on-line gay support groups and internet dating.**

*“On our wedding day, I genuinely believed that we were getting married for life and that things would always work out for the best. I am so grateful every day for the fact that I have two beautiful daughters. Being a parent is challenging for anyone and some days it can be very hard, but my children make my life so much richer.” Chris*

*“Would I do the same thing again? I really don’t know, as it was so hard for everyone at first, and every day I still feel guilty for walking out on a lovely wife and two beautiful babies, but seeing how we are all happy now, it makes it a lot easier to bear. I wish I had had a support group back then. I have met some great gay dads who have become lifelong friends.” Harry*



**This book will be of interest to gay parents, women who have married gay men, the adult-children of gay men, social historians, counsellors and psychologists and all those interested in civil rights.**

**Feature suggestions:** Can a gay man *really* fall in love with a woman? Doesn’t that mean he’s bisexual? • How many people are completely homosexual? How many are heterosexual? How many are somewhere in between? • What do the world’s major religions say about homosexuality? • Should there be more discussion about homosexuality in schools? • Is it ethically wrong to marry somebody of the opposite sex if you have any doubts about your own sexuality? • How should parents tell children about a marriage breakdown? • We now have same-sex marriage in the UK, so what else is left for gay campaigners to achieve? • How have things changed for the LGBT community in the UK over the last fifty years?

**About the author:** **David Ledain** (a pen-name) is a gay man who (in 1990) married a woman and went on to have children with her. He and his wife are now separated but have an amicable relationship. They continue to share the care of their children. David says, *“I hadn’t a clue then that there were so many other men in exactly the same situation as me, until I discovered a whole group online. They too had fallen in love with a woman and got married against all their natural instincts ... at last I could talk to other men who knew how I felt, who had gone through the same trauma, who had been lost and were now finding their way. I had found a ‘gang’ I could belong to at last. I hope that this book might inspire and encourage other gay dads to realise that they are not alone.”*

**Media opportunities:** Extracts/serialisation. The author is available for telephone and radio interviews. We are sorry but, to protect the identities of his ex-wife and children, we are unable to provide or allow photos of David Ledain.

**Local UK interest:** **Sussex:** The author lives on the Sussex Coast • **London:** Pride 25/26 June 2016

• **Brighton:** Pride 5/6/7 August 2016 • **Manchester:** Pride 26/27/28/29 August •

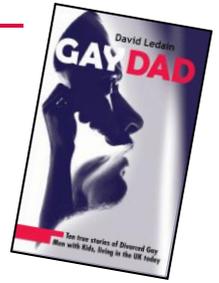
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## **GAY DAD** True-life stories of divorced gay men who have children In their own words ...



### **WHY WOULD A GAY MAN MARRY A WOMAN AND HAVE CHILDREN WITH HER?**

There are so many reasons why these gay men married women and started families with their wives. In some cases they had not yet admitted to themselves that they were gay; in other cases they knew they had homosexual feelings but cultural and/or religious pressure compelled them to go ahead with a conventional marriage.

*“I wanted a family. I wanted a loving relationship. I wanted a ‘normal’ life. So subconsciously I ignored any feelings for men and buried them deep down inside me.”*

Deep

*“I had a romantic idea of getting married to a woman and always had the desire to be a dad. The thought of having children one day was definitely something I wanted.”* Chris

#### **Religious and cultural pressures**

Family expectations and potential disapproval from their community drove many of the men to suppress their homosexual feelings. The book contains stories of gay men from Christian and Sikh backgrounds.

*“I would pray regularly. Part of my prayers was asking God to stop or change my gay feelings so that I could be a ‘normal’ straight guy and get married. I guess I had always naively hoped, deep down in my heart, that somehow God would ‘heal’ me of these gay feelings.”* Chris

*“You couldn’t be Indian and gay, let alone Sikh and gay. Although as a child I didn’t think about my Sikh faith and sexuality together, the overall feeling was I couldn’t be both gay and Sikh nor remain within the Sikh community as a gay man. They were definitely two distinctly different entities. ... Having graduated, and as was normal within the Indian community at the time, I was introduced to the daughter of a family friend as a potential wife. We met each other, got to know one another and agreed that we would get married ... About five years later we decided to start a family and had two children within three years. Life with the kids was great, but after the birth of the second, we started to have problems in our marriage.”* Deep

#### **Then and now: attitudes have changed (in the UK)**

The majority of the men featured in the book grew up in the UK during the 1970s and 80s. Although attitudes to gay rights and legislation about homosexuality were advancing during the late twentieth century, at the time it was still very difficult for a person to ‘come out’ and there were few positive role models in the media. The 1980s also saw the tragic onset of AIDS and fear of this terrible disease resulted in increased homophobia – making it even more difficult for many gay people to face up to their own sexuality and find the courage to come out.

*“Growing up during the 1970s and ‘80s, it was still not socially acceptable to be openly gay or lesbian, and it was certainly not legal to get married or start a family if the two of you were homosexuals.”* Chris

*“I remember we were always very careful. This was at a time when it was not only criminal, importuning and having sex in public, but it was the beginning of the eighties and the scourge of AIDS was starting to take its grip ... Thank God we live in a different age where tolerance of an individual’s sexuality is the norm ... fear of rejection and ridicule are very strong forces to deal with.”* Fred

*“I wasn’t aware of anyone else who was gay, and therefore, I couldn’t identify or define myself as that. The only point of reference I had was television characters like Mr Humphreys from Are You Being Served?, Larry Grayson, and ‘Honky Tonk’ from the Dick Emery Show, and I knew I wasn’t like any of them, nor did I want to be. Consequently, I had this internal struggle between who I really was, or my desires, and just wanting to fit in – wanting to be like everyone else. Wanting to be normal.”* Bert

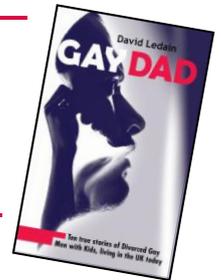
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### **WHY DIDN'T THESE MEN 'COME OUT' BEFORE GETTING MARRIED AND STARTING A FAMILY?**

Many of the gay men in the book talk about how they did not want to disappoint or shock their own parents.

*"My mother, bless her soul, announced how pleased they both were to meet my girlfriend, as they were convinced I was going to grow up a poof. Well, you can imagine my shock at this revelation ... it just strengthened my resolve to be normal, to fit in and fulfil my parents' now clear expectations of me."* Bert

### **Can a gay man really fall in love with a woman?**

One of the most striking themes to emerge from the experiences described in this book is that the majority of the gay men did actually fall in love with the women they married – and that their love for their wives was deep and sincere. They had never intended to hurt these women and – in most cases – they married believing that they would happily spend the rest of their lives with their wife. Some of the men knew that they were suppressing homosexual feelings while others regarded their homosexual inclinations as a passing phase or fantasy.

*"When I met my wife I genuinely wanted to be with her and marry her. I had fallen in love with her almost from day one. In my mind I had decided this was the woman I would spend the remainder of my life with, the woman with whom I would have a family, so I accepted that all the other thoughts I'd had for all those years would be pushed into the far recesses of my mind and just be fantasies. That is how things were for the next twelve years or so. We got married in the spring of 1996, a couple of months before I turned thirty, and the children started arriving two years later."* Bert

*"She made me feel so good about myself, and even though I didn't really feel a sexual attraction to her, I decided that we had a great friendship that I didn't want to lose ... Here was a woman who wanted to share her life with me and was excited about having children with me in the future. So I plucked up the courage and proposed to her, and the next day we announced to family and friends that we were getting married."* Chris

*"We met when we were teenagers; I was captivated by her and immediately fell head over heels in love. She was my first and only girlfriend. We were inseparable, best friends attacking life head-on. I was in a rush to make something of my life, and so the wedding and two children quickly followed. But I harboured a secret. It's amazing looking back that I managed to suppress my feelings for so long ..."* Edward

*"I was in love. We both were, and when she returned from her travels, we moved to London together to start a new life. We both landed decent jobs, bought a small flat, and a couple of years later got married. It was the next step in our relationship, it wasn't planned or a whirlwind romance, it just developed that way, and I couldn't imagine living the rest of my life with anyone else."* Fred

*"We fell madly in love, and by the age of twenty-six, we were married and planning a family ... I did not imagine on my wedding day that I could live with a man, and when my children came along, that I could be separated from them."* Harry



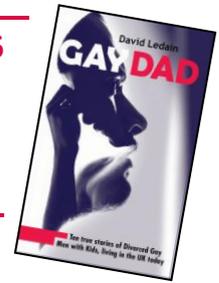
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## **GAY DAD** True-life stories of divorced gay men who have children In their own words ...



### **HOW DID THE ARRIVAL OF CHILDREN AFFECT THE GAY MEN?**

Having children is a great joy – but for any couple it is also a time of enormous change and stress. For the Gay Dads featured in this book, having children often led to intensified feelings of guilt and depression but the profound love they feel for their children shine through.

*“Despite the initial shock of sleepless nights and all the dirty nappies, I loved being a dad and I felt like my life was complete with my wife and new baby daughter. With working full time and being a parent, I didn’t have time to think, so my anxieties about being gay were pushed to the back of my mind.”* Chris

### **The pressure of trying to be a great dad and a loving husband: guilt and duty**

There are two words that the Gay Dads use time and time again in this book. Those words are “guilt” and “duty”. Many describe their inner struggle between wanting to live up to their own aspirations to be a model husband and father despite their secret homosexual leanings. Some speak of ‘living a lie’ and of suffering depression and anxiety – and some even express suicidal thoughts.

*“I carried on as if nothing had changed .... All the while I carried on looking after the children and the house and doing my duty. I swore I would never leave them.”* Fred

*“The word ‘dutiful’ could be my epitaph, as I realise I have tried my whole life to be what I thought others around me wanted: a straight, hard-working, loving and successful son, happily married, and a loving husband and father ... I’m not the abandoning type and I will be there for her in every practical way possible”* Ian

*“I was living a dual existence, and no one seemed to notice ... by night I was a predatory homo discovering all the best places to hook up – the toilets, the park, and now driving to further afield places like nightclubs, but always at times when I couldn’t be found out ...and so I began down the road of treachery, using every opportunity to my advantage.”* Fred

*“I just couldn’t get myself out of the doldrums. I went for a drive and the tears just wouldn’t stop coming. I was surrounded by friends and had four children, but I hadn’t ever felt so alone before in my entire life. You think stupid thoughts at times like this, but thankfully I quickly dismissed them, and anyway I’m such a coward.”* Bert

*“I felt incredibly guilty for thinking about men whilst I was married and also because I was a Christian. After a few months of this internal battle, I gradually sank into a depression. I had serious doubts about my faith and was having strong homosexual desires ... I felt I had to make a decision. I really wanted to make my wife and God happy, but I was also so miserable and depressed.”* Chris

*“Just before our second daughter was born, I had a breakdown and got home really drunk”* Harry

*“Suffering from ‘moderate depression’ recently and on SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors – it’s a generic term for a family of antidepressants like Prozac and Citalopram, etc.) from the doctor. Can’t stand being down and never allowed it to happen before, so feel out of control and unhinged compared to my usual upbeat self, but I guess it’s a case of attrition for everything over the recent years”* Ian

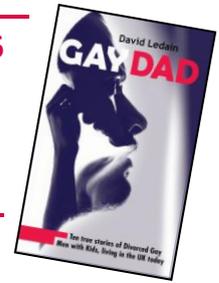
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### **HOW COULD THESE MEN BE HONEST WITH THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN IF THEY COULDN'T EVEN COME OUT TO THEMSELVES?**

Many men in the book describe how afraid they were of admitting to themselves that they had homosexual feelings – never mind finding the courage to come out to others, especially their wives and children. Some had suppressed their gay desires for so long that it took an encounter with another man to finally push them to admit their true desires. For others the process was more gradual. Undoubtedly, the internet played a major role in helping some of the men to finally accept their own sexuality.

*“After meeting him several times, I had that lightning-bolt moment where I finally ‘came out’ to myself as a gay man. I cried for the first time in years. A few months later, having sunk into the depths of depression, I told my wife.”* Edward

*“I made a conscious choice at the age of twenty-four not to be gay. I persuaded myself that if I could still get it up with girls and have a good time with them, then I could be happy. Wrong! Oh so wrong!”* Grant

*“That was the first time I slept with a man. It was a real turn-on, but I felt so nervous and worried someone would find out somehow. I wasn’t ready for this, and if I thought about a full-on relationship with a man, it just seemed something impossible to me. I also really wanted to be a dad one day, so I put the weekend behind me and went back to my girlfriend.”* Harry



#### **Gay porn websites**

*“Broadband now meant we could have a PC, and thus came my discovery of gay porn. I now had an outlet for my sexual frustrations brought about by all those thoughts I was constantly banishing to the dark recesses of my mind. So when the kids were in bed and my wife was out with friends, I would steal away and log on to various gay porn sites.”* Bert

*“I was working part time and trying to keep everything together for our sons ... I couldn’t go out of an evening because I couldn’t leave them ... I was living a celibate life by this stage. Porn became my boyfriend.”* Fred

#### **Gay support networks on the internet and online dating**

*“I was sure there must be other guys like me, but where were they? So when I got back home, I immediately went on the Internet and Googled for any UK-based gay dad support groups. That’s when I found Gads UK, a membership-based website for gay dads, and my mood immediately lifted.”* Bert

*“I wish we’d had the Internet when I was a teenager. It seems all so much easier now for the young to hook up with like-minded people. It was impossible in 1976.”* Fred

*“Having separate bedrooms allowed me to develop friendships with gay people online, giving me the confidence to start exploring my sexuality by talking to people. The more I developed these online ‘relationships’, the more I realised I was a gay man, but I couldn’t say it.”* Deep

*“After years in the wilderness it’s really great to have found a place to talk to other men in my situation. Praise be to the Internet!”* Ian



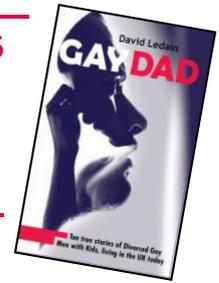
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### **HOW DO YOU TELL YOUR WIFE – THE MOTHER OF YOUR CHILDREN – THAT YOU ARE GAY?**

*“Finally, I decided the time had come when I had to tell her. The question was, how would I do it? I had to consider several aspects to this ‘coming out’. How did I support her to understand that the love we had was real and she had no part to play in me identifying myself in this way? How did we then decide whether we should tell the children? Do they need to know? How would we live our lives in the future given that we had children together and we couldn’t just walk away from each other? I didn’t want to do that anyway. I had loved this woman from the bottom of my heart at one point. I wanted to retain her friendship in my life. It took me the best part of two years to work out how to do it.”* **Deep**

*“I came out to my wife almost three years ago. It was the most difficult and painful thing I’ve ever had to do, but my story has a positive ending.”* **Edward**

*“In all the outpouring and with so much guilt built up inside me, I came out to my wife. She was so strong and said, quite understandably, that she could not deal with it at that time, as she was just about to give birth. I fell into a black hole and ended up coming out to everyone because I knew she needed support. My guilt was so intense because it was all such bad timing, yet it was supposed to be a happy time. My second daughter was born and my wife did everything she could to keep me at home.”* **Harry**

*“I began to think about the consequences and repercussions of coming out. I was terrified. I was heartbroken that I could lose my wife – my best friend. She was the only person in the world who I had shared my inner thoughts and my life with, and despite no sex life, we still had a strong friendship. If she took it really badly, I might also lose access to my daughters, and what would our friends at church and other family and friends say?”* **Chris**

### **How did the wives react?**

*“For her the whole world was now a different place. Our second son was born and she went back to work and started to build her own life outside the family home. ... she started an affair and started staying out overnight and even talking on her phone in the house to her boyfriend ... All the while I carried on looking after the children and the house and doing my duty. I swore I would never leave them.”* **Fred**

*“Having always turned to her best friend (me) for emotional support, I am now the cause of her pain, and she couldn’t be comforted, nor did she feel she had anyone else to call ... My wife has also been incredibly understanding. She even gave me her blessing to go out there and discover my sexuality .....*

*but this transition is the very cause of her pain. She doesn’t deserve any of this, which she never signed up for in the first place.* **Ian**

*“Ultimately, she was looking to me for answers. I finally realised that nobody was going to come and save me from my situation. Only I could create my own future, and I just needed to decide what that future should look like. It dawned on me that I was being selfish by stringing things along, so I made the agonising decision that our marriage was over, but with a determination that our friendship and our family would go on.”* **Edward**



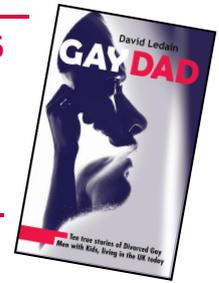
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### **HOW (AND WHEN) TO TELL THE CHILDREN?**

As with the breakdown of any marriage, telling the children that Mum and Dad are going to separate is terribly painful for all concerned. Trying to reassure the children that none of this is their fault and that Mummy and Daddy still love them is one of the most difficult things any parent will ever face. But is it even more complicated if the break-up is because Dad is gay? And how appropriate is it to try to explain this to younger children?

*“...it was time to tell the truth to my son, as he was getting older, and someday soon someone would make a comment that would lead him to realise that his dad is gay.” Adam*

*“Thankfully our son remains oblivious to the fact that anything is really different to normal ... He just thinks Dad works late at the flat, which is also where Dad sleeps now, and at least two days a week I stay for dinner, put him to bed as normal and return the next day for the school run, plus other ad hoc dropping in. So far so good, but we will tell him more as soon as my wife feels strong enough to handle his questions without getting upset, not to mention being able to cope with the stigma or, worse, the pity from onlookers who find out her plight of being married to a gay man.” Ian*

#### **How did the children react?**

*“There were a lot of tears, and my son was quiet and withdrawn for a few days afterwards, but things settled down once he realised that nothing had changed apart from the fact that his dad loved him enough to be totally honest with him about a very painful subject. This was the beginning of my coming out. Once I had done that most difficult thing, the rest was easy. Adam*

*“Finally, when my fifteen-year-old came home from his mate’s, I asked him how he felt about what his mum had told him. Bless him, he gave me a huge hug and a kiss and said, ‘I love you, Dad, no matter what.’” Bert*



*“I told my eldest boy, who by then was fourteen, that his mum and I were separating, and initially he was angry. ‘Why couldn’t you do this when I was five or eighteen?’ he shouted. ‘Why do you have to separate just because the spark has gone between you two?’ (Kids can be so observant). I hadn’t told him that I was gay because I thought that by the time he was ready to find out, he’d know anyway.” Grant*

*“I think more needs to be discussed around the issues of sexuality in schools. My daughters, however, think it’s really cool to have a gay dad, and all their girlfriends want to come and stay with us, which is great.” Harry*

*“My son’s main concern was that he would be bullied and excluded if it became known that his dad was gay. So my coming out had to be gradual and natural, on a trust and need-to-know basis, and he has done the same with his friends at school, who think it’s ‘cool’.” Adam*

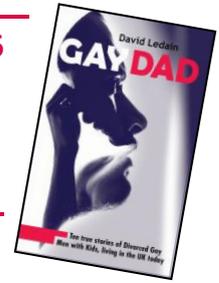
**Please see over for more feature suggestions and quotes from the men in the book >>>>**



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**NEW BOOK PRESS RELEASE continued – PUBLICATION DATE: 13 JUNE 2016**

## **GAY DAD** True-life stories of divorced gay men who have children In their own words ...



### **DO THE FEELINGS OF GUILT EVER GO AWAY?**

Most of the Gay Dads in the book describe how they, their ex-wives and children have found a way to cope with the situation; however, many of the men are still trying to cope with the guilt they feel.

*"I just have an enormous feeling of guilt because I've ruined everyone's dreams ... Since coming out to my wife this summer, I've been increasingly depressed and alcohol-fuelled ....there seems no solution."* Ian

*"The image of my ex-wife and my tiny daughters all crying as I left still haunts me today. Seeing them sobbing made me feel like the most despicable villain in any movie. I felt numb. Was I really doing this? Where was I going to live? Would I see my daughters again? I was absolutely heartbroken and had so many emotions spinning around in my head. ...At the age of thirty-three, I was leaving behind my wife and two children to start a new life."* Chris

### **Is it possible to work things out together as a family? Does counselling help?**

*"For the next twelve months we went backward and forward over what to do. Her initial shock, anger, sadness and embarrassment faded. At points we ignored it, and at others we went through counselling, both as individuals and as a couple."* Edward

*"If the kids see that you are both trying to work it out and that you are behaving correctly, they will toe the same line. This works up to the age of seventeen or eighteen, after that it's more unpredictable, but separation these days is much less of an issue since there's so much of it about"* Grant



*"Not only was this therapy something I'd wished I'd had twenty years ago, but it gave me bucket loads of hope and encouragement that my wife could learn to think about herself with higher regard and gain enough self-esteem to find a new partner in the future too. Herein lies another big relief, due to the fact that we've both been exposed to the impact good counselling can have, this is really becoming a positive experience at last."* Ian

*"We both worked extremely hard to make our new relationship work. Sometimes that involved pushing boundaries and talking about uncomfortable things ... For the large part we made it through laughter, the way we always had done in the past. On a more serious note, we talked about finances, longer term living arrangements, and how all this would impact on the kids ... Slowly but surely, we transitioned from husband and wife to being close friends with a common goal, to protect our family and build on, rather than dismantle, what we had already achieved together."* Edward

*"Suffer the brickbats of recriminations. Behave correctly and in the end she will recognise that the man she married has not turned into a monster just because he's gay .... Give it time and hold off going to the lawyers until you both feel it is right to do so. Work it out before you go and it'll cost so much less."* Grant

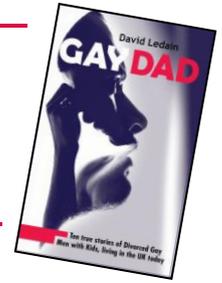
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NEW BOOK PRESS RELEASE continued – PUBLICATION DATE: 13 JUNE 2016

## **GAY DAD** True-life stories of divorced gay men who have children In their own words ...



### **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A GAY DAD FINDS NEW LOVE WITH A MAN?**

Not all the divorced Gay Dads in the book have found new partners – some are still looking for a new love – but for those who now have a male partner, their joy confirms to them that they were right to ‘come out’ despite the pain it caused.

*“When we met, I felt like he held a key that had unlocked a whole new side to me. I was with him for the weekend and absolutely smitten and in love like I had never known before ... These feelings of love I felt for him were so overwhelming and made me feel so good, it was like nothing I had known before. Yes, I had loved my wife, but I hadn’t ever experienced a love like this.”* **Deep**

### **WAS IT ALL WORTH IT?**

**Can gay dads, their ex-wives and their children live happily ever after?**

*“So what the hell was I afraid of all this time? My kids and family are fine with it. I’m sure there will be wobbles along the way, but it’s such a relief to let them all know and to be ‘honest’ at last ... So far, I’ve had nothing but support and love from those I have told.”* **Bert**

*“The relationship with my ex-wife is now really good. We talk over her dates since then and all the ins-and-outs of her latest adventures. I will never be entirely at peace, I don’t think, until she does find the right guy, but I’m happy when she is happy. We remain married, but live apart. I’m glad of that because it gives her financial security and keeps me involved in fixing things that go wrong (I’m quite good at fixing most things, except being gay). We still take the kids on holiday and behave correctly as if we were still together as far as they are concerned.”* **Grant**

*“Marcus and I now live in a beautiful house, which we own together. My daughters are nearly eleven and nine, and are so great with him. Marcus and my ex-wife get on really well now – even having coffee together sometimes – I don’t want to know what their conversations are about!”* **Harry**

*“It’s been such a painful journey, but it has led to where I am now, and I would not change a thing.”* **Adam**

*“The odd days are still painful and sad. A song or a photograph can set me off, wishing for my old life back and the future that never came to be. But I don’t regret what I’ve done, and the vast majority of the time I feel extremely positive and proud to be a gay man with a best friend and beautiful kids.”* **Edward**



*“What about our son? .... Actually, he will derive a very positive benefit from seeing his dad change and become happier. His life will be enriched and his understanding of gay issues will broaden, and he will also have sanctuary with me when he needs it. My wife too will have the opportunity of finding a man who can truly and passionately love her.”* **Ian**

*“After many years, I get on fine with my ex-wife now (very difficult and acrimonious for several years, though), and as we have a wedding of our daughter coming up, it’s very pleasing to think we can both enjoy being on the top table without any difficulty.”* **John**

*“You cannot deny your sexuality. I honestly would have preferred it if I had been completely heterosexual, as I think it’s a much easier life, but I am lucky how things have turned out and that I have a very supportive partner, two beautiful daughters and a very supportive family. My father is now good friends with Marcus, and we have made a lot of new friends together, so life is finally starting to settle after so many years.”* **Harry**



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