

The War of the Roses

Warren Adler

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The War of the Roses Warren Adler
The War of the Roses has over time emerged as a synonym for modern divorce and its emotional aftershock. Since its publication, it has spawned numerous film and stage adaptations, prompted endless discourse on the dynamics of divorce, and has become part of the legal jargon describing the proceedings that follow.

Adler's iconic tale takes us from suburban bliss to a deadly territorial battle. Jonathan and Barbara Rose are at first glance the perfect couple. Jonathan has a stable law career; Barbara is an aspiring gourmet entrepreneur with a promising pâté recipe. Their large home holds the rich antique collection that originally brought them together, as well as the loving familial bond that intertwines them with their children Eve and Josh.

When Jonathan finds himself suddenly gripped by what is presumably a heart attack and Barbara confronts the loveless spell lingering between them, the sun-soaked sky that was once the Rose family union drifts into a torrential downpour. Their mutual hatred becomes ammunition in a domestic warfare that escalates in the most unpredictable ways while they helplessly eye their dwindling nuptial flame. In the chaos that unfolds, Adler allows a moment of much needed contemplation on the shape of today's matrimonial bonds.

The War of the Roses illuminates the relationship-shattering materialism, contempt, and selfishness of husband and wife by posing a timeless question: how far are we willing to allow our material possessions the power to define who we are? Are today's marriages haunted by the struggle to get even?

About the Author

Acclaimed author, playwright, poet, and essayist Warren Adler is best known for *The War of the Roses*, his masterpiece fictionalization of a macabre divorce adapted into the BAFTA- and Golden Globe–nominated hit film starring Danny DeVito, Michael Douglas, and Kathleen Turner. Adler's internationally acclaimed stage adaptation of the novel will premiere on Broadway in 2015–2016.

Adler has also optioned and sold film rights for a number of his works, including *Random Hearts* (starring Harrison Ford and Kristen Scott Thomas) and *The*

Sunset Gang (produced by Linda Lavin for PBS's American Playhouse series starring Jerry Stiller, Uta Hagen, Harold Gould, and Doris Roberts), which garnered Doris Roberts an Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a Miniseries. In recent development are the Broadway production of *The War of the Roses*, to be produced by Jay and Cindy Gutterman, *The War of the Roses: The Children* (Grey Eagle Films and Permut Presentations), a feature film adaptation of the sequel to Adler's iconic divorce story, *Target Churchill* (Grey Eagle Films and Solution Entertainment), *Residue* (Grey Eagle Films), *Mourning Glory*, to be adapted by Karen Leigh Hopkins, and *Capitol Crimes* (Grey Eagle Films and Sennet Entertainment), a television series based on his Fiona Fitzgerald mystery series.

Adler's works have been translated into more than 25 languages, including his staged version of *The War of the Roses*, which has opened to spectacular reviews worldwide. Adler has taught creative writing seminars at New York University, and has lectured on creative writing, film and television adaptation, and electronic publishing. He lives with his wife, Sunny, a former magazine editor, in Manhattan.

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The War of the Roses Warren Adler Bibliography

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