

“I Didn’t Divorce My Kids!”

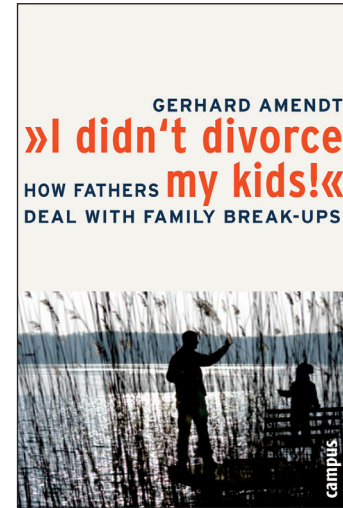
How Fathers Deal With Family Break-ups

GERHARD AMENDT

Popular culture often portrays divorced fathers as deadbeats who have little interest in caring for the emotional, physical, and financial needs of their children. In the stereotype-shattering book “*I Didn’t Divorce My Kids!*” Gerhard Amendt presents the long-neglected plight of divorced fathers who are plagued by grief and loneliness after being separated from their children. Based on surveys and in-depth interviews of thousands of such dads, Amendt reveals how fathers cope with trying to salvage their own lives while simultaneously maintaining relationships with their children after a painful divorce.

Amendt’s incisive look at divided families also explores the impact that a single-parent household has on children’s well-being, criticizing the American tendency to over-pathologize normal reactions to familial upheaval. Even the most civilized of divorces, Amendt argues, can cause rage, sadness, potential health problems, and behavioral disturbances in otherwise well-adjusted children. The broad spectrum of experiences recounted in “*I Didn’t Divorce My Kids!*” will be essential reading for anyone interested in, or personally shaped by, the changing face of the modern family.

Gerhard Amendt is professor of sociology at the University of Bremen. He is the author of *The New Stork* and *How Mothers See Their Sons*.



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