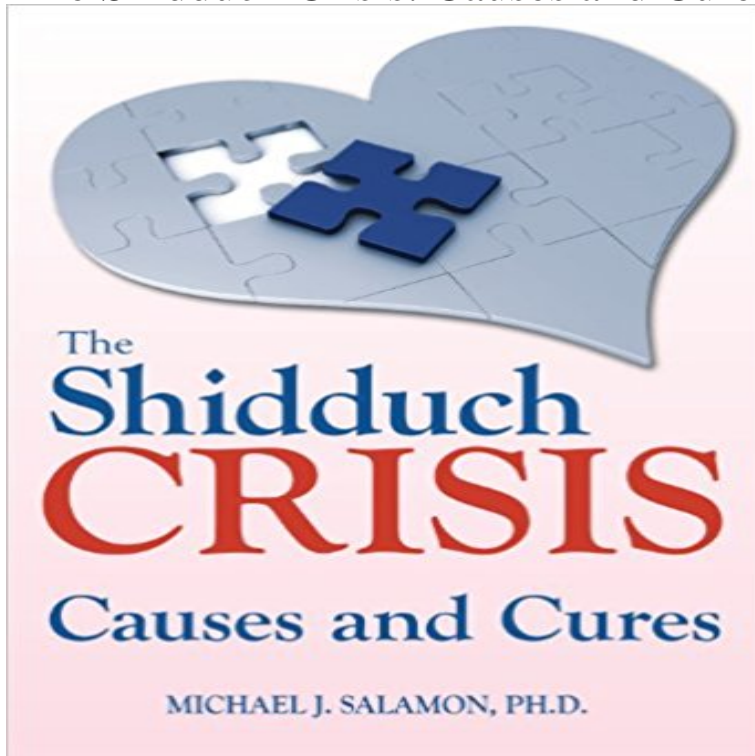


## The Shidduch Crisis: Causes and Cures



The Shidduch Crisis: Causes and Cures takes a hard, honest look at the real difficulties faced by the dating public in today's Orthodox world. With the rates of divorce and eating disorders rising, complaints regarding the shortage of men and the move away from socializing activities to the extensive use of third-party matchmakers, a true crisis exists and may be worsening. In this book, the author explores these issues, particularly those related to how matches are made. He finds that most are made based on availability, not compatibility, and on superficial criteria that have no relevance to what truly makes a marriage successful. Citing relevant data from the fields of psychology, sociology, and neurology, along with a host of anecdotes from a wide range of people, Dr. Salamon, a well-known psychologist, author, and lecturer, provides guidelines to help alleviate this crisis. Dr. Salamon looks at the lists of criteria, the questions that people ask and the expectations for a mate that have developed over the last several years within the shidduch (matchmaking for marriage) process, and shows how they are counter-intuitive for forming healthy marriages. He also shows how much of what passes for background checking, in fact, may be lashon ha-ra (tale bearing). But most importantly, Dr. Salamon provides real suggestions for going beyond the physical, superficial standards that have contributed to a developing shidduch crisis. He advocates an approach where a measure of personal maturity is returned to those who are dating and makes the case for alleviating the external pressures on the dating couple. Review Dr. Michael Salamon has written a book which touches on very important issues relating to the Jewish family. These subjects must be addressed by the community, schools, the Rabbinate, and the family. Dr. Salamon's work makes an important contribution to the discussion which must take place. I congratulate him

for his insight and hope that his book will be a catalyst for more thought provoking contributions on raising our children in a very challenging world. --Rabbi Hershel Billet

Dr. Salamon has written a carefully researched and fact-filled book about the shidduch crisis in the Orthodox community. This book addresses a vacuum in this area by providing objective and common-sense information regarding this anxiety filled process. Dr. Salamon convincingly debunks many of the dangerous misconceptions that often guide the thinking of parents and young men and women in determining whom they will date and how they will decide whom to marry. Using a combination of common sense and solid psychological research, Dr. Salamon's recommendations regarding what is really predictive of success in marriage are enlightening and invaluable to all who are involved in making what is most likely one of life's most important decisions. I recommend this book highly to those getting ready to date, their parents and those involved in making shidduchim.

--Professor David Pelcovitz

I have just read an amazing book on this subject entitled *The Shidduch Crisis: Causes and Cures* (Urim 2008) by Dr Michael J. Salamon, Ph D. I would highly recommend this very important book to rabbanim, mchanchim, parents and those of our children in the Parsha. This book analyzes where we have collectively erred in this process as a community, educators and parents. IMO, conferences on this subject will solve no aspect of the problem unless we carefully analyze the system and its multiple deficiencies and realize with the help of everything that our Gdolim have said that the shidduch system simply ignores midos and places a premium on being able to answer a series of stereotypical questions in the positive. --Steve Brizel, Beyond BT blog

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