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By Arthur Leonoff

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## WHEN DIVORCES FAIL

Disillusionment,  
Destructivity, and  
High-Conflict Divorce

ARTHUR LEONOFF

### About the Book

This book provides a comprehensive, in-depth analysis of the origin and the root causes of high-conflict divorce. Through rich case studies, the author points the way toward remediation and makes specific recommendations for the legal and mental health professions. Counselors, social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, lawyers, and judges who regularly contend with high-conflict divorce will benefit from drawing from this new approach to the practice.

### About the Author

**ARTHUR LEONOFF** is a psychologist and psychoanalyst whose clinical practice extends over forty years. His work includes extensive involvement as a family law assessor and expert court witness. He is coauthor of *Guide to Custody and Access Assessments* and *The Ethical Divorce*. A supervising and training analyst with the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society, Dr. Leonoff has published numerous articles on psychoanalysis. He is a teacher, supervisor, and former board member of the International Psychoanalytic Association and remains an active contributor both nationally and internationally. Dr. Leonoff is a frequent speaker to both legal and health communities.

### Praise for the Book

“Arthur Leonoff writes... in a discerning, compassionate manner that reflects his extensive forensic experience, his psychoanalytic and socially engaged mind, and his fearless devotion to addressing a relational problem that features destructivity and an absence of empathy and ethics.

Through clinical stories that bring the disturbing experience of high-conflict divorce alive, he provides the reader with psychological understanding and pragmatic approaches to intervention.

— **Harriet L. Wolfe, UCSF**

“This book is an absolute must-read for every family court judge, family lawyer, mediator, arbitrator, and parenting coordinator who has experienced the astonishment, dismay, frustration, and sense of failure working with high conflict individuals. Readers will appreciate why some of the legal structures we currently use to support and manage high conflict parties, including some family dispute resolution processes and case management systems, are ineffective in containing the destructive behaviour we so often witness in these divorces.”

— **Kathryn d’Artois, d’Artois Mediation, Inc.**

“Leonoff draws on a wealth of experience in working with high conflict separating couples to explore the trauma and complexities of these most challenging cases. He relates the disillusionment and destructive behavior of parents to their own childhoods, and to the devastation it causes for their children. This book provides important insights and practical advice for family justice and mental health professionals.”

— **Nicholas Bala, Queens University, Canada**

### Features

- Case Studies

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