

Author copes with divorce

By Jim Stevens
For The Crier

Of all the traumatic events that can happen in life, few are more devastating than a divorce. Even when a divorce is amicable, without the bitter legal fight over property or children, the pain of starting a new life remains. For Ginger Emas, freelance writer



Local author Ginger Emas

and divorced Dunwoody resident, the thought of returning to the dating scene was overwhelming.

"I believed that the best thing about getting

married was that I would never have to go on a first date again," said Emas. "Especially a first date, the singularly most anxiety-producing part of dating. Well, I was wrong."

Very wrong, as it turned out. Over a two-year period, Emas experienced 87 first dates in a whirl of activity that involved using six online dating sites, eleven "speed dates," and two lock-and key parties. Along the way she also gathered a wealth of material in the form of hilarious stories and helpful tips for surviving post-divorce dating. The result was her guidebook, "Back on Top: Fearless Dating After Divorce."

"I love writing and telling stories," Emas said. "I discovered a whole new world of new dating etiquette and rules, secret guy-code, dating safety needs, and hundreds of dating war stories, fairy tales, and dates-from-hell. I real-

ized there were many women going through the same things without a clue. So, I went to work and compiled what I hope is a realistic look at the dating scene for newly divorced woman-and men too."

"Back on Top" offers useful advice for understanding why people date, how to establish dating goals, and how to set dating rules. Emas describes creating a "manfile" of what you are looking for in a man for either a short or long-term relationship, and how to screen dates to get to the truth.

Safety in meeting and dating strangers is covered in detail, with helpful cautions to use. Through it all, Emas uses a well developed sense of humor to make her points and offer encouragement.

"This book," Emas said, "is dedicated to all the women who are finding the courage and wit to date again...who are get-

ting out there to like and love and be loved, especially after a divorce, a bad breakup, or another relationship-from-hell. It's sometimes scary to be alone; but it's always scarier to be in something that's not true to who you are. I'm with you. I applaud you. I'll help you return your wedding gifts."

Emas is pleased with the result of her dating experience, and is very happily enjoying her life with her new family: her son, her new boyfriend, her amiable ex-husband, and herself.

Ginger Emas will be on hand at a special release party for Back on Top at Café Intermezzo at Park Place in Dunwoody on May 13, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Fun, free goodies, and refreshments will be available. Reservations can be made by calling 770 396-1344. An RSVP is requested by May 7 to skirtmagbbg-mail.com.