



Donna Andersen: Expert on social predators

Donna Andersen is author Lovefraud.com, a website that teaches people to recognize and recover from sociopaths. She also wrote *Red Flags of Love Fraud—10 signs you're dating a sociopath*, and the accompanying workbook.

Donna learned about sociopaths the hard way—by marrying one. Her ex-husband defrauded her of \$227,000, cheated with six women in two years, fathered a child with one of them, and then committed bigamy. Her story is so outrageous that she was featured in two television shows: *Who the (Bleep) Did I Marry?* and *My Life is a Lifetime Movie*.

In 2005, Donna launched Lovefraud.com to educate the public about social predators, and the Lovefraud blog has evolved into a healing community of survivors. Donna receives many e-mails from readers who thank Lovefraud for saving their lives.

She is co-author of *Antisocial/Psychopathic Personality: What do family members, romantic partners and friends report?*, presented to the Society for the Scientific Study of Psychopathy.

Donna graduated summa cum laude from Syracuse University with degrees in magazine journalism and psychology. She was the original editor of Atlantic City Magazine, and then founded her own boutique advertising business.

LOVE FRAUD AND HOW TO AVOID IT

Speaker

Donna Andersen

author of Lovefraud.com
teaches students to escape
abusive relationships

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lovefraud.com/education



Readers tell
Donna
Andersen
that she has
saved their
lives.
Your students
need her
message.

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What students need to know about social predators

Most of us grow up believing that everybody just wants to be loved. Unfortunately, this isn't totally true. There are people in the world who pursue romantic relationships not for love, but for exploitation. Donna Andersen says these people are sociopaths.

No, sociopaths are not all deranged serial killers. But they are social predators. Perhaps 12 percent of the population have serious personality disorders that make them unsuitable—even dangerous—as romantic partners. In the beginning, however, they seem to be charismatic, charming, affectionate and sexy—until their targets are hooked. Then it all changes.

Usually sociopaths begin their deception and manipulation during the high school and college years. Unfortunately, people who become involved with them at a young age suffer more serious harm—including physical abuse, psychological damage and thoughts of suicide—than those who meet the predators later in life. That's why your students need to know that these disordered individuals exist.

The good news is that the dire consequences of love fraud are totally preventable, if students understand the warning signs. Based on her own experience and the thousands of cases she's collected, Donna explains how people get hooked into these involvements and how to get out of them. Dr. Liane Leedom, a psychiatrist who also knows about sociopathic relationships first-hand, consulted on the material.

Love Fraud and How to Avoid It covers:

- What is a sociopath? How many are there?
- Male and female sociopaths
- 10 signs you're dating a sociopath
- Dangers of online dating
- Healthy dating relationships
- Abusive dating relationships
- Why these relationships are addictive
- How to break up with an abuser
- Protecting yourself from sociopaths

Arming your students with this information will enable them to recognize exploiters and avoid interactions that could irrevocably damage their lives.



Donna Andersen spoke about “Love Fraud and How to Avoid It” to Cumberland County College in Vineland, New Jersey in September 2012. “This was an amazing presentation,” one student wrote. “It made me realize a lot.”

Testimonials from students

“It was interesting and informative. I didn’t even know that sociopaths were a part of our everyday life.”

“It opened my eyes to a new group of people I didn’t know about and it really taught me some important things to make sure I can have a healthy relationship.”

“It was very informative. Coming from a woman who has had first-hand experiences makes it very real.”

Testimonial from faculty

“By sharing your experiences, the students were afforded the opportunity to reflect on their own personal relationships and learn the identifying factors involved in dealing with sociopaths and psychopaths. It was obvious by the questions they asked that your presentation made a personal connection to their lives.”

Dr. Mary Emilie Steinacker
Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District

Bring Donna Andersen to your college or high school

Love Fraud and How to Avoid It is appropriate for college and high school students. The length of the program is flexible to meet your school's scheduling requirements. Lovefraud also offers a professional development program, *Sociopathy Awareness for Staff and Counselors*.

Videos and more information:

www.lovefraud.com/education

To book a presentation, contact Terry Kelly:

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609-945-1384 (Eastern time)

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