

“Hey, Beautiful. Going through divorce?
Do more than survive. Thrive.”



Divorce in Good Company

FINDING COMMUNITY AND BEING EMPOWERED THROUGH DIVORCE

WORDS BY **ASHLEY HURST** / PHOTOS BY **JESSICA ASHLEY**

During her 16 years of experience representing men and women in divorce proceedings in Georgia and Florida, Pilar Prinz realized that her female clients often didn't have access to the information they needed. Pilar says, "These were high-net worth, highly educated women, and you would think they would have had access to all of the resources they needed, but so often they didn't, which led them to give up and take bad deals, a lot of times out of fear or a desire to keep the peace."

Pilar also realized that when the women she represented did receive information, many times it was either misinformation from people who didn't know the law or misunderstood it, or accurate information presented in a way that was difficult to understand. "Lawyers talk like lawyers, and legal-speak isn't the same as girlfriend-speak. We can connect better when we talk like friends when giving legal information," Pilar says.

Recognizing this disconnect as a serious problem, Pilar began brainstorming a solution. She thought about writing a book but decided that since there are already so many books, and as a society we have so little time, she would make her content as relatable as she possibly could in the modern age—pointed and easily digestible.

As Pilar continued to brainstorm, she unexpectedly began networking with her neighbor, Julie Klappas. "I knew Julie was a creative," Pilar says, "but I still don't know exactly what made me just walk over to her and start telling her all of these ideas as we stood in the driveway." Julie immediately saw Pilar's vision, and they began to workshop marketing ideas. Deciding to partner to create a community designed to empower, motivate, and connect women going through divorce, Divorce in Good Company was born.

They launched their website containing free information presented in easily digestible formats—short videos, articles, and listicles.

Pilar says, "If a woman is in the carpool line or has a 30-minute break to sit in a Starbucks, and she's hurting or scared, we want this to be a place she can go for immediate information and to feel helped. We're finding that women go for one article, one specific topic, but they love the voice and the information, so they stay."

Julie adds, "We really wanted the tone to be positive. It's such a serious topic, and there is a potential for these conversations to get dark. Emotions are high, and that can lead to negativity. We've really made an effort to establish a tone of encouragement and positivity, to be a white light in all of the darkness that comes with divorce. We're not Pollyanna about it, but we're positive in a practical way." Their initial nerves about how site visitors would respond were put to rest when they saw women ready to connect and to be encouraged and supported.

Angela, a divorced stay-at-home mom in California, says that the site, which launched within a month of her divorce papers being filed, came at the perfect time—just as she desperately needed someone to talk to who would bring positivity and make her feel secure, as everything in her life was changing. "I didn't know where to begin," she says. "There is a lot of vagueness around divorce, and I was trying to make decisions about things I had been removed from for years." Angela came across the video, "Starting Your Divorce? Do These 5 Things First," and took comfort in the concrete steps recommended by someone who knew what she was talking about. "It's great, timely advice—actual legal advice. My girlfriends give great advice, but we're all in different states and different situations, so it feels like the blind leading the blind in a legal sense. Pilar's legal knowledge is such a comfort."

"I log in and post often because it really takes a community," Angela says. "As a stay-at-home mom, no one else in this process—not



the judge, not the lawyers—knows where I’m coming from. And so much of the information out there is just, ‘this is the norm.’ But with Pilar and Divorce In Good Company, I get what’s best for the kids and learn how to get through this without them being scared. So many other forums are negative—all about revenge, or ‘woe is me,’ or trying to cheat the system. This site is about putting on your big-girl pants and dealing with it. And that’s what I needed.”

Lynn met Pilar in person in Florida based on a recommendation from her brother. She says, “From the moment I walked in, Pilar had this aura of comfort and competence—she’s the smartest person I’ve ever met.” Also a frequent visitor to the website, Lynn describes it as “a heartfelt and unique project—the only positive spin you’ll find.” She says, “It takes the edge off of the day-to-day monotony of waiting for it to be over. Her jokes and the easy way she words things and spins what has to happen, make me laugh out loud and put a smile on my face every time. She gives the information in such a gentle way—it’s lighthearted but still instructional. It gives you this sense of, ‘She’s in charge. She has me.’ And now I want her to meet my friends!”

Nicole is a (not divorce) lawyer in Georgia who appreciates Divorce in Good Company’s ability to fill the gray area between law-

yer, accountant, and therapist. “It gives me a community of other women to lean on, a support network, and practical advice. There is so much more to divorce than just the legal side of it, and this really addresses the personal side. There’s all kinds of great advice about preparing yourself for divorce, but there’s also a list of movies to binge-watch by yourself over the holidays. You feel so lonely going through divorce, but Pilar and this community shift the dialogue from shameful to empowering.”

Pilar and Julie cover everything from hiring a lawyer and finding a therapist to dealing with emotional and financial abuse or domestic violence. They give advice on getting through the holidays, on putting together your “Divorce Squad,” and on avoiding sex with your ex. Anything you are struggling with as you make your way through the minefield that is getting divorced, you can bet there’s a video or article about it on the site. All of the current content is free, and the community is welcoming.

Women everywhere are going to the Divorce in Good Company website for help surviving divorce but instead begin a journey toward thriving through it. And what better way to begin that journey than by seeing the website’s welcome: “Hey, Beautiful. Going through divorce? Do more than survive. Thrive.”



Julie and Pilar | For more information and resources, visit divorceingoodcompany.com

Create Your Personal Divorce Squad

Every day at Divorce in Good Company we talk about being strong and tough and resilient. And girl, I know you’re all of those things. Most days you know it too, right? You’re as mighty as a lioness. Then there are those other days... the ones when you feel about as fierce as a field mouse. Both are totally expected. **But no matter how you’re feeling, you don’t have to go through this alone.** It most definitely takes a village to get through divorce, and suffering—or strutting—in silence doesn’t make you stronger or fiercer or more resilient. It just makes you, well, alone. And that’s no fun.

From our talks with so many of you, the idea for a D-Squad was hatched. **Here’s how to get yours started.**

1. Pick Your Peeps

Make a list of positive, reliable people you trust to help get you through this time. You are looking for people who’ll support you and help make life a little easier through this process. And remember we said to pick positive people. You’re not looking to host a pity party! **Be careful to choose people who feed you and lift you up.**

2. Assign Roles

There are a lot of ways your D-Squad can help you, and it’ll make a world of difference if they can take some of the tasks of divorce off your plate. Of course, you can personalize this any way that feels right for you, but here are a few suggestions:

CLO (Chief Listening Officer): This is your best pal, your confidant, your friend who’s willing to sit up with you till 2 a.m. to listen to every detail. At some point, though, even she is going to get exhausted, which is why I strongly advocate for you to also get a counselor. But there’s no doubt, you need your CLO.

Secretary: Do you have a friend who’s incredibly organized, writes everything down, and color-codes her calendar? Super! Ask her to accompany you to your first meeting with your divorce attorney to be your notetaker and task maker. Having your personal secretary there will allow you to concentrate on talking and listening, rather than writing. A word of caution: ask in advance if you can bring someone to sit in with you.

Treasurer/Investment Advisor: Think about who in your close circle is a CPA, a financial advisor, a bookkeeper, or find a close friend who aced AP Calculus. Ask her if she’d be willing to take a look at your budget or help you analyze the asset division your spouse has proposed. This probably won’t replace hiring a financial expert, but many women benefit from some free advice from their financial friend. Just make sure to treat her to dinner once in a while.

DOF (Director of Fun): At some point, it has to happen: you need to wash your face, change out of your yoga pants, and go have some fun. Choose the friend who cheers you up the most and won’t let you cancel plans.

The “Plus One”: One of the new things you’ll have to deal with during divorce is getting used to attending events without your ex. It’s really nice to have someone ready to be your “date” for the school holiday pageant, office parties, weddings. Even if the event is something you could do alone—just because you can do something doesn’t mean you have to.

3. Create a “D-Squad” text group

Name it something funny, so every time you see it you feel like smiling. Assign silly or empowering emojis next to the group name. Reach out to the group when you need advice, a shoulder, a smile, or just a distraction from what you’re going through.

4. Set Recurring Dates in your Calendar

In addition to connecting with your D-Squad sporadically, set up regular dates with them like coffee every Tuesday morning, happy hour on Fridays

5. Widen your circle

Low on peeps? Ask your friends to introduce you to their other divorced friends. But remember, you’re only looking for positive and supportive interactions—you don’t need negative talk or bashing sessions.

6. Connect virtually

With our Divorce in Good Company community and share your best ideas. I bet you’ll find a few awesome women to add to your own squad!

7. Pay It Forward

Right now you might be more of the givee, but one day soon you’ll be the giver. So remember how much you appreciated your D-Squad when your friend in need asks you to be part of hers.

Remember, we’re in this together. - **Pilar**