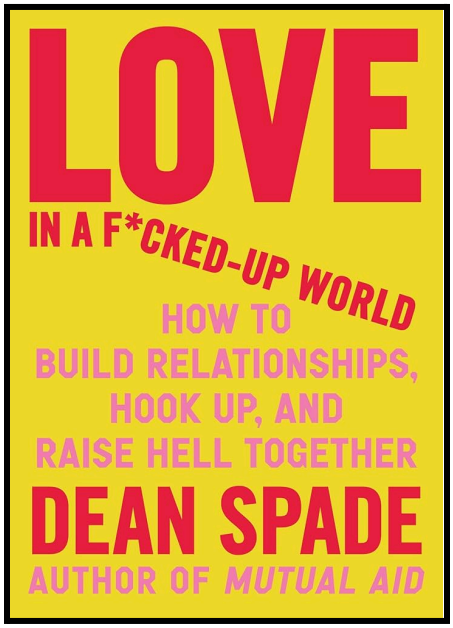
This is an earlier draft: [Click HERE for final 2026 Reading Group Notes // Syllabus]

Concept Document and Calendar: Love and Healthy Relationships Reading Group
Metro DC Democratic Socialists of America, Spring 2026



Facilitators: Frankie F

Notes, Questions, and Quotes Document: Forthcoming

Signal Chat: TBD

Summary:
The Love and Healthy Relationship Reading Group will meet on Thursday nights in Spring 2026, aiming to provide an intentional and values-aligned space to discuss challenges navigating romantic relationships and friendships, unpack common social norms and pressures, and explore internal growth as we work alongside comrades to dismantle an ableist, patriarchal, racial capitalist system. Based in the DMV area, the reading group will give participants a space to discuss Dean Spade's ***Love in a F*cked-Up World: How to Build Relationships, Hook Up, and Raise Hell Together*** and reflect on how the text speaks (or doesn't speak) to challenges faced by individuals attuned cultures of working class organizing.

The group will meet weekly in a virtual setting (likely Zoom) on Thursday nights, with in-person social events around the DMV and the option to continue future socials or continue readings and discussions. No experience or knowledge level is required to join. The primary text will be Dean Spade's *Love in a F*cked Up Word*, available in ebook, paperback, and audio for retail purchase and in area library systems. Participants will be able to share questions from the

readings for discussion before each session, in addition to reviewing the textbook style exercises offered by the author. While it is difficult to guarantee a safe space dealing with emotionally charged topics of discussion, members are urged to participate in active listening, assume good faith, be open to feedback, and act comradely towards one another.

Origin: The idea for the group came from two factors: 1) the recent publication of Dean Spade's book; and 2) the recurring need both within organizing spaces and in our wider society for intentional and supportive spaces of peers to allow individuals to discuss health relationships and pursue personal and interpersonal growth.

Details: The group is based with Metro DC DSA's Political Education Workgroup and welcomes members from outside of the organization. The group will primarily consist of reading and then holding online meetings to discuss chapters from books on the topic. The reading schedule will be able to continue after if the group decides. Group discussions will be the primary meeting type alongside one or two social events, but guest speakers may be invited as well.

Structure: The group will have a primary facilitator with opportunities for all members to facilitate discussions based upon their own interest.

Timeline and Location: The group is intended to start readings and discussion in the New Year. The group will meet weekly on Thursday, with meetings held all or mostly online and with 1 or 2 dedicated group social meet ups. The reading group may hold some meetings outside of the reading structure if prompted by anyone.

Discussion and Notes Document forthcoming

Draft Calendar -all times Thursdays at 7:00 pm unless modified

(Page numbers are based upon Paperback edition)

Meeting #1 (January 29th)

Introduction, Group Rules and Norms, and Article Discussion

- Article Discussion on "Dating in the Age of the Algorithm" by Johansson Wilén, Wemrell, and Gunnarsson published in *Jacobin*
- *Love in a F*cked Up World* Introduction (pages 1-10)

Meeting #2 (February 5th)

- Introduction & Chapter 1 "Dominant Culture's Scripts are Still Shaping Our Relationships"

Meeting #3 (February 12th)

- Chapter 2 “Stuck on Autopilot: Swinging between Numbness and Temporary Highs”

Meeting #4 (February 19th)

- Chapter 3 “Falling in Love and Losing Your Mind: The Romance Cycle”

Meeting #5 (February 26th)

- In-Person Social at Sonny’s Pizza DC 3120 Georgia Avenue NWd

Meeting #6 (March 5th)

- Chapter 4 “Encountering Fear, and the Courage to Say Yes and No”

Meeting #7 (March 12th)

- Chapter 5 “What Are We Fighting About?: Communications and Repair”

Meeting #8 (March 19th)

- Chapter 6 “Revolutionary Promiscuity–Getting Free Together”

Meeting #9 (March 26th)

- Final meeting // In-person social: location TBD