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Sarko an unworthy prez: Ex-wife 12 Jan 2008, 0415 hrs IST, AGENCIES

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Cecilia calls her ex-husband a 'stingy philanderer' (TOI Photo)

LONDON: The ex-wife of Nicolas Sarkozy has branded him a "stingy philanderer" with a "behavioural problem" who is an "unworthy president" of France.

"There is a ridiculous side to him. He is not dignified. He is an unworthy president of the republic. He has a behavioural problem," the former first lady is quoted as saying of her exhusband in a book, Cecilia, written by journalist Anna Bitton. On Friday, a Paris court rejected Cecilia's bid to block publication of the book.

As the Elysee Palace soap opera descended to new depths

of vitriol, Cecilia attacked her ex-husband as "a man who likes no one, not even his children." Cecilia is also said to have attacked the president's 40-year-old fiancee, telling a friend: "Carla Bruni won't make him forget me in a hurry."

She called the president's other female friends "a bunch of slappers" and women ministers "boring wallflowers". She also had harsh words for the president's aides, calling them "young guys who found themselves puffed out with power and who took themselves for the princes of Paris".

Sarkozy, 52, began dating the glamorous Bruni, 40, just a month after his divorce from Cecilia and his election last May as president of France.

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