

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>List of Tables</i>	xiii
<i>Preface</i>	xv
STORY 1: PAT & ANNA	1
Chapter 1: Beginnings	13
Purpose of the Study	14
Design of the Study	21
Criteria for Selecting the Sample	25
Description of the Sample	32
Plan of the Book	37
STORY 2: MARTHA & DOTTY	39
Chapter 2: Commitment	51
Prior Relationships	51
Becoming a Couple	54
Commitment Is a Spirit of Dedication	58
Commitment Is Interdependence	61
Arrangements about Money	63
Children and Others	66
Other Types of Formal Commitment	67
A Word about Emotional Interdependence	69
Conclusions	72
Postscript: Dating and Commitment	73

STORY 3: LOUISE & BETSY	77
Chapter 3: Sameness/Difference	89
The Idea of Sameness	89
Couples Who Value Closeness	94
Couples Who Value Separateness	99
The Idea of Difference	105
A Note about Butch-Femme Couples	107
Particular Differences: Income	108
Particular Differences: Class	111
Particular Differences: Race/Culture	113
Particular Differences: Age	117
Equality	120
Inequality/Power Differences	124
 STORY 4: MAUDE & AGNES	 129
Chapter 4: Sexuality	141
Being Friends with our Partners	141
Identifying as Lesbian/Gay	144
Sexuality: Attitudes, Behavior	150
Couples for Whom Sex Is Important	161
Sexual Frequency Related to Age and Longevity	166
Couples for Whom Sex Is Not Important	167
How Couples Deal with Monogamy/ Non-Monogamy	177
 STORY 5: GAIL & DONNA	 195
Chapter 5: Problems	205
Thinking about Breaking Up	206
Biggest Source of Current Problems	215
Problem Couples	222
Solutions: Communication	226
Solutions: Therapy	232
Solutions: Time Passes	235
Solutions: The Problem of Our Self	236

STORY 6: RENA & MATTIE	241
Chapter 6: Children, Family and Friends	255
Parents	256
Children	265
Couples Who Have "Inherited" Children from Prior Relationships	268
Couples Who've Chosen To Have Children	271
Friends	278
The Larger Society	283
 STORY 7: DEBORAH & KATHY	 289
Chapter 7: Change and Conclusions	301
Everything Changes	302
Put the Relationship First	313
Intimacy: Knowing the Real Me	315
Take Responsibility for Yourself	319
Joys, Pleasures	322
Ignore the Rules	327
 <i>Bibliography</i>	 333
2.1 Sex of Partners in Prior Significant Relationships	52
2.2 Type of Formal Commitment	68
 Chapter 3: Sameness/Difference	
3.1 Degree of Agreement on Attitudes	83
3.2 Comparison of Group Means with Those of a "Close Couple" on "Merged" Questions	95
3.3 Comparison of Group Means with Those of a "Separate Couple" on "Merged" Questions	100
3.4 Comparing Income within Couples	108
3.5 Age Differences within Couples	117