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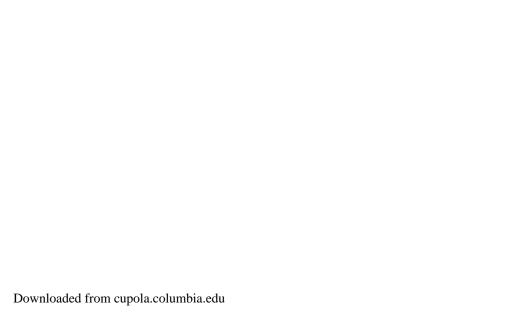
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Interracial Couples, Intimacy,& Therapy



Introduction

WHAT INTERRACIAL COUPLES CAN TELL US

LARRY: A guy at work told me, "Mixed marriage offends me, it just *offends* me."

And I can accept that—it's not for everybody. But it's his heart that's hurting, not mine. Not everyone can do this. Not everyone is that strong.

DEBRA: Yes, everybody has to decide what they can live with and can't live with.

ROBERT: We're just like any other couple... perfectly normal. LINDA: As far as things happening to us, we're real boring.

s people in intimate relationships can quickly confirm, individuals looking at the same picture, or living through the same event, often report completely different experiences. Attending to disparate aspects of situations, we tend to interpret what we are sensing, feeling, and thinking in varied ways. The two couples quoted above report dissimilar experiences, just as individual partners in interracial relationships may have contrasting takes on or constructions of what is "real" or "true" for them. While this can be a source of confusion or frustration, it is also a phenomenon that all couples must learn to effectively handle if their relationship is to be successful. As partners in interracial relationships diverge from one another on multiple axes of power—such as gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, or social class—