



Brave New Families: Stories of Domestic Upheaval in Late-Twentieth-Century America

By Judith Stacey



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Judith Stacey has added a new preface to her classic study of how the traditional nuclear family has been supplanted by a variety of new relationships that are not defined by blood ties and traditional gender roles.



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Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The rose-hued nuclear family--breadwinner dad, stay-at-home mom, and two kids--held a lock on the American imagination long after it ceased to be much more than a skewed memory. Studying the paths taken by two families living in California's Silicon Valley, ethnographer Judith Stacey was struck by the ways each had reconfigured the nuclear equation. Pam Gama and Dotty Lewison had both been married homemakers raising kids, but there the similarities end. For Pam, divorce and remarriage created a network of children, an ex-spouse, and supportive friends who act as family. A self-avowed feminist whose gradual emergence into paid, sustaining work was the death knell to her first marriage, Pam saved a foundering second marriage by entering Christian counseling and renewing vows at a fundamentalist church that preached wifely submission. Dotty, despite coming from more conservative working-class stock, plunged wholeheartedly into community and feminist activism, eventually using it as a lever to first leave, and then improve, her marriage. Though the book is heavily skewed with Stacey's political sensibilities, it still digs deep to sketch the convoluted lives and contradictory philosophies of real people. First published in 1991, *Brave New Families* remains fresh and engaging today because it speaks to the dissonance between hard-line feminism and true-life stories. --*Francesca Coltrera*

From Publishers Weekly

In an unusual exploration of post-industrial society American families, Stacey, a sociologist at UC-Davis, argues that because of economic and social developments, including feminism, the modern nuclear family is giving way to complex, extended households formed by divorce, remarriage and step-kinship. The author narrates crucial periods in the lives of 30 relatives and friends belonging to two Silicon Valley kin networks representing a wide variety of lifestyles: single parenthood, homosexual or blended households, along with others committed to evangelical teachings. While Stacey may be faulted for the extent of her intrusion into her subject's lives, and the projection of her feminist views, she nevertheless thereby adds intensely human dimensions to the study. Illustrations not seen by PW.

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From Library Journal

The so-called traditional family, consisting of breadwinning father and homemaking mother, is a relatively recent institution in American society. It is also an institution in the midst of evolution, especially in the Silicon Valley, according to sociologist Stacey's observations of women and families in the center of the United States electronics industry. This study originated as a survey of changes in working-class family life but focuses instead on in-depth portraits of two women and their complex "recombinant" families, consisting of children, stepchildren, ex-spouses, and former in-laws, and overlaid with elements of feminist reform and Christian evangelism. Although there are some interesting insights into the future of family life in post-industrial society, most are lost in the book's soap opera-like tales of family hardship.

- *Karen McNally Bensing, The Benjamin Rose Inst. Lib., Cleveland*

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Farah McCune:

The book untitled Brave New Families: Stories of Domestic Upheaval in Late-Twentieth-Century America contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains your ex idea with easy method. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was written by famous author. The author will bring you in the new period of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice study.

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