

Exercise

See Ground Rules for Talking, page 17.

1. Can you identify with Frank or Peg?
2. Do you think Peg was justified in asking Frank to spend more time with Meg and her?
3. What seemed to make a difference for Frank that resulted in his beginning to listen to Peg?
4. What seemed to be the most important factor(s) in Frank and Peg's reconciliation after their brief separation?
5. Are you or anyone you know in this type of situation? What did you or they do?

Couple Situation 13: Mike and Carol:

"You Never Want to Have Sex!"

Mike and Carol are in their midforties. This is the second marriage for each, and they have been together six years. They each have a child from a first marriage, Michelle and Judy, both eight years old, and together they have .five-year-old Teddy. Both are busy and employed full-time. Carol is a secretary in a large firm, and Mike is an accountant in a small partnership.

Both Mike and Carol are fairly independent and feel they have created a nice blended family life. However, in the last six to eight months, Mike has begun to request and demand more sex.

Carol had always felt she had a healthy sex drive, but it was usually Mike who initiated sex. Sometimes Carol didn't feel like having sex and said no. Sometimes she just wanted to hug and snuggle and feel close to Mike without having sex. But most of the time the snuggling would turn sexual and she would give in. Sometimes sex would be okay for her, and other times only Mike would be satisfied. This really started to bug her and in the past few months, she had begun to avoid