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Between the Covers

By Jone Devlin

Unmarried to Each Other: The Essential Guide to Living Together as an Unmarried Couple

By Dorian Solot, Marshall Miller

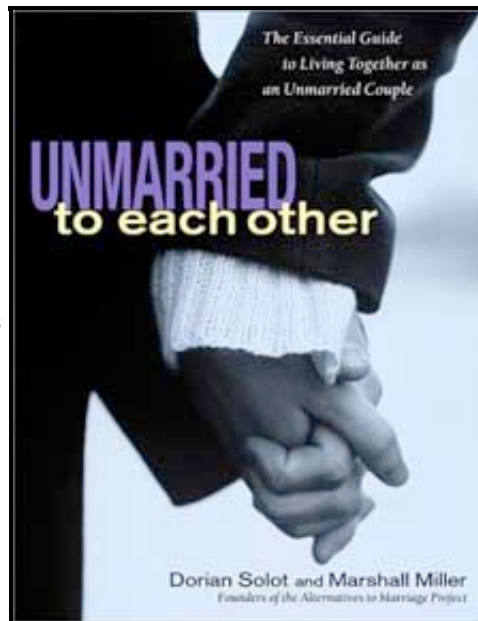
Statisticians estimate that eleven million people in the United States are living together as unmarried couples, while millions more consider the prospect. GLBT individuals meanwhile, prevented from marrying, have embraced living together as one of the few options available to them.

The downside, of course, is that marriage brings with it certain legal protections that living together does not. The good news is that unmarried couples can also attain most of the protections guaranteed by marriage, provided they know where to look and what to do.

And that is where *Unmarried to Each Other* comes in. In this fantastic work, Dorian Solot and Marshall Miller detail the how-to's of cohabitation, from legal rights to how to refer to your partner when being introduced.

The book covers the following topics in detail, including moving in (tips on knowing if you're ready to share a bedroom and bathroom); introductions (what to say when "boyfriend" and "girlfriend" just don't cut it); snappy comebacks (you'll be ready next time someone asks you the annoying question, "Why aren't you married?"); common law marriage (why it's not so common after all); legal essentials (how to get the protections you need, from buying a house to making emergency medical decisions); health insurance (information on getting joint health insurance as domestic partners); staying together (smart advice for keeping your relationship strong); explaining your relationship (how to help your mother understand your decisions); commitment ceremonies (everything you need to know to plan a wedding or ceremony without getting legally married); unmarried parenting (all the facts on raising kids without a marriage license); marriage (the Marriage Decision Tool can help you decide if tying the knot is right for you); research (the most up-to-date scientific information about cohabitation); real life stories (funny stories and savvy insights from people in unmarried relationships around the country); and the future (why cohabitation is here to stay).

While the book is not specifically written for GLBT couples, there is a wealth of information for them contained therein. The legal essentials chapter alone makes this book worth picking up. In fact, no matter how savvy you think you are about such matters, I guarantee that this work will teach you something (probably several somethings) you didn't already know. The book also contains the kind of relationship advice that would make it helpful and appropriate even

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for those who are just starting out in the dating process.

The style here is easy to read, and the content is laid out in a very "user friendly" way. It is a simple matter to find specific information, but the work's warm style is such that it can even be read "cover to cover", like a novel.

The authors have also taken care to inject lots of humor into a serious subject, though they have taken special care to do it in such a way that it adds to, rather than detracts from, the overall content.

The book also makes it clear throughout that the decision to live together rather than marry (with the exception of those who are in situations where they may not legally marry) is just that, a personal decision. The book is not "against" marriage, or even specifically "for" living together. It is simply a tool to help those who have made or are considering making the decision to cohabit.

Jam-packed with entertaining stories, valuable relationship and legal advice, and lots of interesting statistics, *Unmarried to Each Other: The Essential Guide to Living Together as an Unmarried Couple* by Dorian Solot and Marshall Miller is published by Marlowe and Company and is available at bookstores everywhere.

Rating A

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