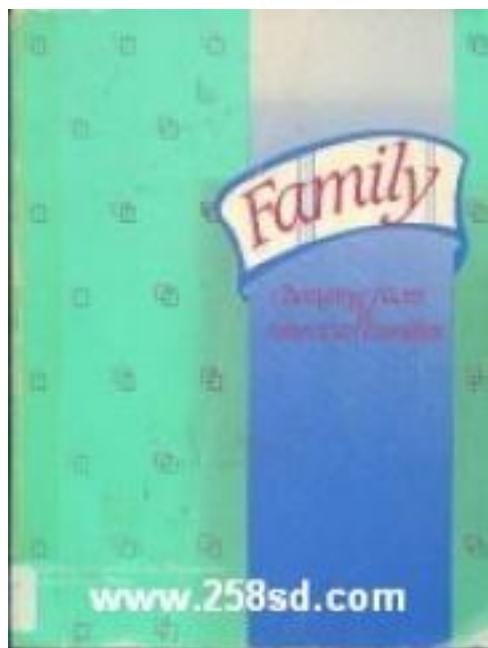


Family: Changing Faces of American Families



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wouldn't miss for the world (and neither would I for that matter) is the familiar nightly session of bedtime reading; exploring exotic lands learning about witches monsters frogs balloons airplanes alphabets lost dogs and people of any description. Last night I chose to read this fair-haired son of mine a children's book appropriately titled "Families." In a very graphic spirited and adolescent manner its aim is very similar to the aim of this book which you hold in your hands. When Kathy and I first began this project many moons ago our very simple goal was to tell you--and perhaps more importantly show you--that we do not all have to be the traditional family of yesteryear the Ozzie and Harriets the I Love Lucys the Father Knows Best to be valid viable living breathing functional

family units. That does not mean the family is dying. But it's clear that the family is changing. [Of course the traditional family still exists to some degree. But it is not the predominant model. According to Miriam Galperin, author of Joint Custody and Co-Parenting, "The typical American family is more myth than reality. Today's typical American family life might include divorce, remarriage or two children from previous marriages... my children, his children, our children, various in-laws, ex-laws, and so on?"] It's these newer alternative family forms as well as the traditional families that we'd like to introduce within the pages of this book. Join us for a look at joint custody families, how they deal with schedules, conflicts, communication between ex-spouses, and most importantly, how the children are faring. We'll show you how several single parents deal with the problems of overwhelming responsibility, financial concerns, and coping without

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