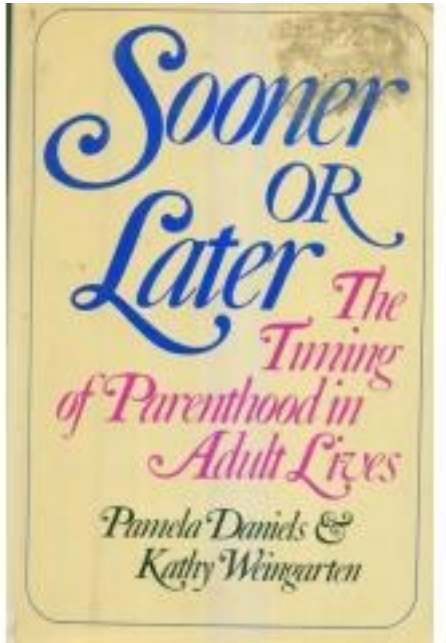


Sooner or Later: The Timing of Parenthood in Adult Lives



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著者:

出版者:

出版时间:

装帧:

isbn:9780393014846

What difference does it make in people's lives when they become parents for the first time?

In a systematic comparative study of the timing of parenthood, the authors interviewed eighty-six couples—mothers and

fathers together who had their first child at about twenty, or thirty, or forty years old.

Setting aside the issue of teenage parenthood, which has its own particular complexity, this book explores the developmental significance of the timing of parenthood in adult lives.

Drawing on the experience of parents in different family stages and from diverse backgrounds, *Sooner or Later* is about the relevance of timing both in the beginning and at subsequent moments in parents and children's lives. The question here is not "whether?" but "when?" and how does the "when" work out across the life cycle? How does the timing of parenthood affect marriages as couples make room for their first child? As they enlarge the nest to include a second child? What are the implications for the ways in which women and men integrate the pleasures and cares of family life with the pleasures and cares of their work in the world? What difference does it make to be "older" or "younger" when children leave home?

Parenthood affects us in profound and particular ways. This book is for parents of both

sexes and all ages and for everyone concerned with the complexities of adult life.

作者介绍:

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