

Together Apart

In her essay *Love Solid as a Rock*, Denise Bedouret argues about how romantic relationships are seen today. She claims that although people tend to involve in free or open relationships, those are not the ones that make people happy. I believe she is right: This type of relationship is characterised by steadiness and lack of development and that is why people do not seem to be happy.

To begin with, many women and men usually get emotionally attached to the person they have slept with. In that respect, the truth is that being part of an open relationship has the disadvantage of meeting new people and discovering that you may find another person more attractive or suitable for you than your current partner. This may lead to a break up and therefore to unhappiness.

From a theoretical perspective, open relationships appear to be the perfect arrangement. But, in practice, this is not always the case. For example, it can occur that the relationships we think are liberal are not as much as they are supposed to be. Jealousy may arise unexpectedly and a desire of monogamy as well, violating the “boundaries” established in the the first place.

Although people usually believe that free relationships are the best option, I think that everyone, in the end, is looking for a long-term relationship based on love and stability. People may seem to be happy and satisfied at first but eventually one or both of them will feel the need to settle and to reach a new level of intimacy. As Bedouret says: “No relationship can last for a long time and not involve some kind of commitment.”

All in all, it has been demonstrated that open and free relationships do not last forever. There are several problems that can arise during its course such as jealousy, desire for a greater commitment and the opportunity to meet new and more interesting people than your partner. It seems to be that choosing this type of relationship is a way of being together but emotionally apart.

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