

Foreword

Al-Anon's third book, *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage*, was first published in 1967, when most Al-Anon members were wives of alcoholics in A.A. It reflects the times in which it was written. While married life looks somewhat different today than it did 50-plus years ago, the effects of alcoholism on relationships remain sadly similar. Fortunately, the principles and guidelines suggested in this book continue to be helpful to anyone in a significant relationship with an alcoholic, regardless of gender, age, background, or spiritual beliefs.

As our fellowship has grown and become more diverse, the World Service Conference and Literature Committee have sought to make our Conference Approved Literature more representative of all members. However, even as new books and pamphlets have been developed and others updated to keep current with the times, there are some publications, including this book, that many members have asked us not to change. They feel that these publications, as originally written, are not only an important part of Al-Anon's history, but also a source of timeless wisdom and insight.

Al-Anon continues to offer help to anyone affected by another's drinking. *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage* does so by connecting us to the words and experiences of Al-Anon's earliest members. Although our circumstances may differ from theirs, we may yet find that the perennial principles put forward in this book are applicable to our own situations and relationships today.