

Exclusion

I am single

I do things on my own; they say to each other, 'come on, lets do so-and-so.'

If I want a companion, I have to find one: there isn't a ready made, constant attendant.

One couple says to another: 'Why don't we all go to the Alps this year together?' 'yes, great!' somehow, I don't get included. I am shut out. Their pairedness is too strong for me: I am shut out and hurt.

Their attachment to and interest in and comfort received from others with the same basic life style is too strong (weak). I, single, am too threatening to be included

Why do I get letters from Ann signed 'David and Ann'?

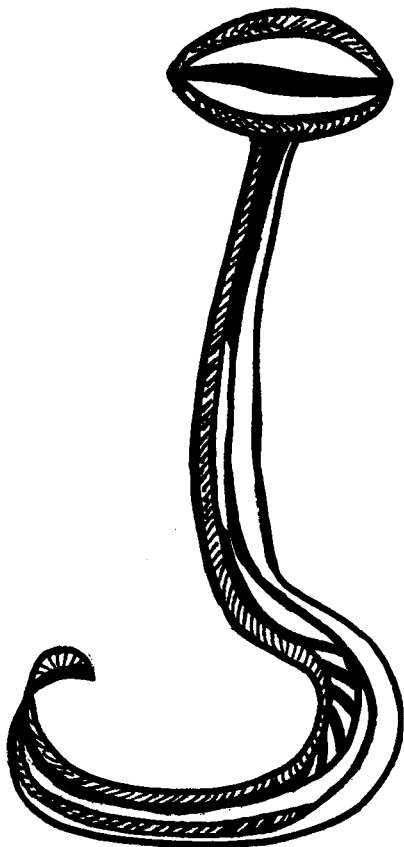
Why can she not bear to be herself writing to me? I am a person being written to by a couple - a superior being, a couple. Being a couple has status: it is respectable; it is together; it is strength.

That is always someone to talk to, someone to listen, someone to eat with, someone to sleep with.

There is no status in being single: the tax man asks about me and my wife. There is no status in being single: I am a failure.

There is no status in being single: I am an embarrassment.

There is no status in being single: 'We are doing that. What are you doing?' 'Well, ...I, ...'



*Why is the 'we' so comfortable, comforting,
successful, confident?
I ache for encouragement in rearing my son.
Who is on hand to share (really share) my
apprehensions and fears and joys in him?*

*I tell myself that:
I have discriminating taste
I couldn't live with him, or him, or her,
or him, or her,
I just didn't learn the right skills and
its all my mother's fault.
I am afraid
I am too powerful for many people, most
men, to get near me.
Which is right? Perhaps all.
It doesn't seem to change anything.*

OK, so let me try again:

*I am on my own and proud of it.
No sooner have I written that, than I
begin qualifying it, detracting from
it, saying it isn't true; saying it
cannot be true in a society seemingly
made of, and for couples.
And who am I to challenge the norms?*

*I get irritated: all these people who
complain about their marital difficulties!
if I say 'The solution is to be independent,
to be free, to be on your own', they reply
'That's just sour grapes'. I collapse.
Yes, I am vulnerable: I collapse:*

*'So why don't you take more initiative,'
they say to me.
But I cannot go on and on doing that
without any encouragement.
It is too great a burden; it is too scary.*

I'm not ashamed of being alone; but it hurts.

VIKKI

