

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page xi</i>
1 The seductive space	1
The interactive revolution in imagination	1
Cyberlove and cybersex	4
Letter, telegraph, and telephone	7
Mobile texting	14
The egalitarian space	16
The lure of the Net	18
The risky space	20
Summary	23
2 The paradoxical nature of online relationships	26
Detached attachment	26
Distance and immediacy	27
Lean and rich communication	30
Anonymity and self-disclosure	34
Sincerity and deception	42
Continuity and discontinuity	46
Physical and mental investment	49
Distant relationships	51
Summary	55
3 Emotions on the Net	58
The typical cause of emotion: A perceived significant change	58
The typical emotional concern: A comparative personal concern	60

	Typical characteristics and components	63
	Emotional intensity	66
	Emotions and intelligence	70
	Netiquette	73
	Summary	76
4	Online imagination	78
	Emotions and imagination	78
	The reality of online imagination	80
	Exciting information	83
	The reality of romantic and sexual imagination	86
	Dangers of online imagination	88
	Regret and online affairs	91
	Summary	93
5	Online privacy and emotional closeness	95
	Privacy: Initial distinctions	96
	Types of privacy	97
	Privacy, emotional closeness, and openness	100
	Online closeness	102
	Online openness	106
	Emotional pretense and sexual harassment	108
	The transparent society	111
	Shame in cyberspace	114
	Summary	118
6	Is it worth it?	120
	Extrinsically and intrinsically valuable activities	120
	Love and sex	123
	Happiness	126
	Types of online intimate activities	129
	Types of activities involved in cybersex	131
	The incomplete nature of online affairs	133
	Summary	143
7	Flirting on- and offline	145
	Online conversations	145
	Online affairs as flirting	149

	The rules for online dating	152
	The formation of online affairs	155
	Summary	159
8	Cyberlove	160
	Attractiveness and praiseworthiness	160
	Seeing with your heart	166
	Online attraction	169
	Love at first chat	175
	Availability and effort	177
	The exclusivity of cyberlove	181
	Online intimacy and commitment	188
	Online rejection	192
	Gender differences	193
	Summary	197
9	Chatting is sometimes cheating	199
	The morality of imagination	199
	Chatting about sex	202
	Casual sex, adultery, and infidelity	205
	The morality of online affairs	208
	Cybersex with software	216
	The risks and prospects of online affairs	217
	Summary	221
10	The future of romantic relationships	223
	Stability and change in romantic relationships	223
	The marriage paradox	227
	Proclaimed monogamy with clandestine adultery	230
	Cohabitation and online affairs	232
	Whetting your appetite outside while eating at home	236
	Greater romantic flexibility	242
	Concluding remarks	246
	<i>Notes</i>	249
	<i>Bibliography</i>	264
	<i>Index</i>	275