

Couplehood relates the ins and outs of relationships

Couplehood, by Paul Reiser, succeeded in impressing upon the minds of my fellow airplane travelers over the holidays that I had gone insane or that I had contracted an incurable case of the giggles. Most of you will recognize Paul Reiser from the successful primetime sitcom, "Mad About You." From page 1, (or, more accurately, 145) *Couplehood* is chock full of typical Reiser humor, sarcasm, and sentiment. This book starts on page 145 to provide the reader with a false sense of accomplishment by leading one to believe that by the conclusion of your reading you have read a 300 page book. Although entitled *Couplehood*, Reiser extricates many of life's little moments and presents them in a manner in which you can see the laugh behind the daily doldrums. He particularly alludes to the funny ins and outs of life with his wife Paula. Throughout the book,

Reiser repeatedly refers to his wife as "my bride" or "the woman I love," which gives you a sense of the type of relationship that Paul and Paula may have.

The format of this book is loosely divided into subject chapters that include such titles as "Don't look at me, I just live here" and "Chicken and Fish." Although intriguing, Reiser tends to jump from one area to another as if doing a stand-up routine and it seems as though he struggles for a theme. Through the style of his choppy and somewhat unorganized writing, it is obvious that Reiser is a performer first and a writer second. Yet, his Thoreau-

like-capital-letter-emphasis provides for a unique background to the expression of the sentimental silliness Reiser illuminates.

Reiser succeeds in providing a peerless look at how everyday events filter in whole process of relationships. For example, he explains that "Driving with your loved one can strain the relationship because, though you're doing it together, only one person's in charge. The passenger is your prisoner... It's not like fighting over the TV clicker, where if the battle for control gets ugly, one of you can leave the room. Here, the doors are locked and you're doing sixty." He goes on to explain other situations such as the way a couple goes about the process of getting into and attending a movie at the theater to ordering dinner at a restaurant.

Besides relationships, Reiser talks about many other humorous situations which, although provide for a good laugh, sometimes seem like they are being forced to fit in the realm of the book because Paul just happened to think them funny. Realities I can relate to are included; for example, in discussing repair jobs Reiser says, "If you don't know what you're doing, you're at the mercy of anyone with a truck and a business card. And problems come up I never heard of." Topics covered range from potato chips to shoe sizes to newspapers.

I chose to read this book because I wanted to read a light-hearted humorous book — something as far away from academia as possible — on my long, anxious flight across the U.S. this holiday season. It only took a couple of hours to read, and it was a good way to relax. I think that anyone, especially those that have had those longer relationships with a member of the opposite sex, those who would like to, or those who like "Mad About You," will enjoy the smiles *Couplehood* provides.

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Society holds inductions

Silver Shield—Meredith's honorary leadership society—recognized thirteen outstanding students on Sunday, Dec. 4, 1994. According to the Silver Shield constitution, faculty and current Silver Shield members choose new members "on the basis of constructive leadership, honor, and service to the school." Silver Shield recognizes those women from the junior and senior classes who promote by example and precept a well-rounded student life, an understanding between faculty and students, a high standard of honor and cooperation in the student body, the ideals and traditions of Meredith College, and a strong commitment to the honor system on campus.

New senior inductees include: Shannon Baynor, Kathy

White Bryant, Nancy Carr, Ashley Davis, Catherine Davis, Carrie Farmer, Kelly Formy-Duval, Jena Leake, Rebecca Sweeney and Tina Sylvester. Juniors Morgan Dalrymple, Melissa Perkins-Bryant and Alyce Turner were inducted as associate members. They will become full members in the spring and will serve as officers during their senior year. Current members include: Holly Lennon (President), Paula Williams (Vice-President), Frances Pate (Secretary), Nickie Bounds, Katherine Davis, Angela Parks Gibson, Jo Malinofski, Michelle Pigford, Trista Schagat, Ali Sindelir, Michelle Smith, Amy Whitt and Pat Yauch. Please congratulate the new inductees on this commendable achievement!