

Platonic partners replacing lovers, says book

[D theday.co.uk/platonic-partners-replacing-lovers-says-book-4](https://www.theday.co.uk/platonic-partners-replacing-lovers-says-book-4) 3 July 2024



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Soulmates: Rhaina Cohen (above) writes about people who live with a friend not a spouse.

Is friendship better than romance? With dating in decline, a growing number of people are looking to non-romantic relationships for support.

What's happening?

A new book by American author Rhaina Cohen talks about people who have made friends, rather than a husband or wife, the central person in their life.

Celebrations of romantic love are everywhere. But what if friendships mattered more than finding a boyfriend or a girlfriend?

Find out more

The friends in Cohen's book buy homes and raise children as a pair. In some cases, they care for one another when sick and dying.

According to statistics, 55% of Gen Z and Millennials say that friendship is more important than a romantic relationship. At the same time, the percentage of people who have never been married or in a civil partnership is rising in the UK, Europe and the US.

Given that half of American marriages end in divorce, friends are more likely to stay when boyfriends or girlfriends are gone.

However, some people think that this is putting too much pressure on friendships. You might expect your husband or wife to move across the country with you when you get a new job. But most people would not ask their friends to do the same.

Is friendship better than romance?

Some say

Yes! Romance often ends in heartbreak! If a friend can give you all the support in life you need, there is no need to be in a relationship.

Others think

No! Finding the right partner has always been hard, but that does not mean we should give up on romance completely. Everyone needs friends, but romance can be important too.

Some people say

"A friend is one soul abiding in two bodies."

Aristotle (384BC – 322BC), Greek philosopher

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What do you think?

Six steps to discovery

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - Do you have a best friend?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: What is the definition of a friend?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain and one thing we cannot say for sure about this story.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - Would you like to live with your best friend forever?

5. Express

What do others believe? - "Is friendship more important than romance?"
Discuss as a class.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - Imagine you are having a friendship ceremony rather than a wedding. Write a short speech to celebrate your friends.

Glossary

Gen Z - Short for Generation Z, meaning people born in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Millennials - People who reached adulthood in the early 21st Century.

Civil partnership - A legal union between two people who are not related.