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*Book Review***Grandparenting: Influences on the Dynamics of Family Relationships
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Company, 380 pp.**

The title of this book--*Grandparenting: Influences on the Dynamics of Family Relationships* edited by Bert Hayslip, Jr and Christine A. Fruhauf—highlights the central theme of this text: That grandparents have historically played indescribably important roles in insuring and preserving family functioning and stability, and continue to do so. Over time, as our world has become more complex, families are often geographically distant and more technologically dependent. The complex and intricate roles of grandparents as influential players in families is more essential than ever before.

Grandparenting overviews many of the intricate ways that grandparents influence families, including but not limited, to grandparents caring for grandchildren. Drs. Hayslip and Fruhauf have divided this text into four sections: 1) *Understanding Grandparenthood*, which provides a foundational approach for viewing roles grandparents play in families in relation to both grandchildren and adult children, 2) *Grandparents and Diversity*, which focuses on non-traditional aspects of grandparents' roles, 3) *Difficulties and Strengths in Grandparenting*, which highlights age-related physical and emotional health challenges as well as unique strengths that grandparents bring to the table, and 4) *Cultural/Societal Aspects of Grandparents*, which documents grandparenting in the face of a rapidly changing society. Each section contains submissions from distinguished scholars, covering a wide array of topics including multi-generational family issues, step-grandparenthood, grandparent caregivers, sexual orientation and gender-related issues, race and ethnicity, grandparents and grief, and grandparenting from afar. Several chapters focus on age-related health issues, including increased life expectancies and the related effects on family relationships, grandparents in global contexts, and resourcefulness and resiliency in grandparenting. Grandparent roles related to emerging social policies, educational opportunities and directions for future research are also presented. The authors do not attempt to simplify these intricacies. Many of the themes presented in these chapters are over-arching and inter-related, emphasizing the layered and complex nature of grandparents' relationships within families. Although each chapter focuses on a single issue, inter-relationships between topics are clear. As stated in the book's foreword, this book "creates a powerful impression of grandparenthood as a relationship that is woven throughout the tapestry of human life and society" (xiv).

This text is an exceptional compilation of research that explores, supports, and at times, redefines grandparents' roles in family relationships. Grandparents frequently live longer and families are frequently more complex than in previous generations. There is a clear need to capitalize on the unique insights, knowledge and strengths that can be provided through grandparent relationships. As stated by Hayslip and Fruhauf, their hope is that this book will “. . .

promote the advancement of theory, research, and practice, as well as their integration in coming to a fuller understanding of the experience of being a grandparent in the context of family relationships”. (xx). This book provides an excellent foundation for researchers and policy makers who will determine the direction of future research, programs, and services for grandparents.

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