



Contents

Series Editors' Introduction	vii
Preface	ix
1. The Nature of Conflict	
in Close Relationships	1
Research Assumptions	3
Defining Interpersonal Conflict	4
Dimensions for Characterizing Definitions	5
A Sample of Theories About Conflict	
in Close Relationships	11
Conclusions	18
2. Methods for Studying Conflict	
in Close Relationships	22
Self-Report Procedures	23
Observational Procedures	33
Conclusions	50

3. Parent-Child Conflict	52
Development of Strategic Interaction Skills	54
The Topography of Parent-Child Conflict	61
Consequences of Conflict	69
Conclusions	74
4. Conflict in Friendship	77
The Nature of Conflict and Friendship	78
Conflict Between Early Childhood Friends (Age 2 to 6)	81
Conflict Between Middle Childhood Friends (Age 7 to 11)	84
Conflict Between Adolescent Friends (Age 12 to 18)	88
Conflict Between Adult Friends (Age 18 and Older)	91
Conclusions	97
5. Conflict in Dating and Marital Relationships	99
The Nature of Conflict in Dating and Marital Relationships	100
Dimensions of Conflict Behavior	104
Conflict Management Behaviors and Relational Quality	107
Factors Influencing Conflict Management	113
Conclusions	119
6. Conclusions About and Prospects for Research on Conflict in Close Relationships	123
Conclusions About Conflict and . . .	123
Conclusions About Future Research Prospects and Priorities	132
References	143
Index	167
About the Authors	177