

CONTENTS

Foreword	<i>Norma McCorvey, a.k.a. Jane Roe, plaintiff in Roe v. Wade</i>	xi
Preface		xiii
Acknowledgements		xv
Introduction		1
Louise is a 64-year-old woman who had three illegal abortions. Her husband was a "sex maniac." She faithfully attempted to use a diaphragm, but her husband demanded sex even if she was not prepared.		25
Janet had her illegal abortion in a motel off Route 128 outside Boston.		31
Jo had an abortion performed at home in 1953 by her physician husband using meat skewers.		39
Joyce became pregnant at age 16. She and her boyfriend eloped, married, and she had the baby. Under pressure from family and unable to survive independently, after seven months she gave up her son for adoption.		47
Nicole was raped by a friend of her husband who was a police officer. She cannot tell her husband for fear he will kill the man.		59
Jeannie had a male friend who came over to give her "something for a headache." It was a powerful tranquilizer which knocked her out while he raped her. She went for three months not knowing she was pregnant because as far as she knew she had not had sex with anyone.		69

Denise is now 21 and grew up in a small town in Kansas expecting to be a nurse or a teacher. She got pregnant while in college. Her family was extremely supportive and their surprise suggestion that she have an abortion was a tremendous relief to her. 79

Alisia is now 45 and has six children. Although saddened by her last abortion for how it symbolized the end of her childbearing years, she is glad to be reaching a stage in her life where it is now her turn to have some time for herself. 85

Lisa got pregnant on a wonderful, romantic trip to see her boyfriend as an unexpected extension of a business trip. 91

Dana, after becoming pregnant, began weeks of intense couples therapy with her boyfriend after which he proposed to her. Her ecstasy died a week later when he backed out, but she has since realized she wants something else from a relationship and has gone on to meet her ideal partner. 103

Donna describes how all she knew growing up was “fighting, fucking, and making up.” She talks of her adult life of prostitution, “promiscuous sex,” and drug use. She is now in recovery from alcoholism and drugs with the help of AA and is finally discovering, at the age of 30, who “Donna really is.” 113

Peggy was raised to oppose both abortion and divorce and tried for years to tolerate her marriage until her husband tried to kill her. Raising her two sons on her own, she got pregnant again in a relationship following the divorce. Her abortion occurred in her 21st week. 131

Ann and her fiancé were both Catholic and very religious. When she accidentally became pregnant and told him she wanted an abortion, he told her he “couldn’t let her do that.” 141

Katherine came from a very wealthy, privileged background and married a man who began to abuse her. When she became pregnant she realized she did not want to have a child with him. 147

Tracy was a kept woman at age 16. She is now 18 and has goals for herself and is glad she doesn't have two children. 155

Sue, whose mother was fervently religious and active in opposing abortion, has approximately 25 brothers and sisters, some of whom are adopted or fostered. Her background prompted her strong feelings about the current excess of uncared-for children in the world. 177

Appendix: Pro-Choice Organizations 195