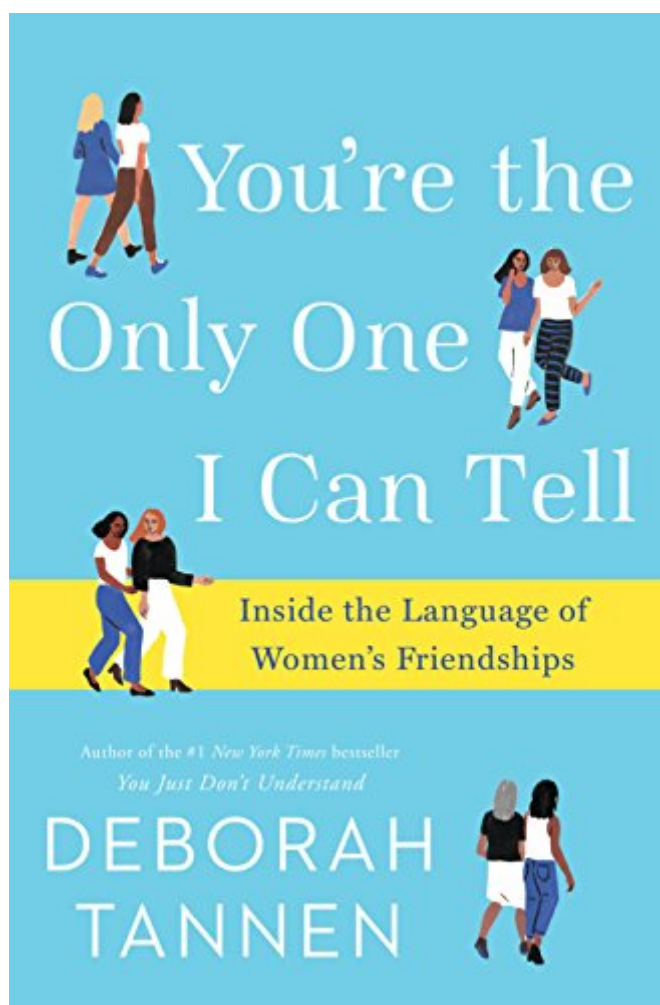


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# You're The Only One I Can Tell: Inside The Language Of Women's Friendships



## Synopsis

This warm, wise exploration of female friendship from the #1 bestselling author of *You Just Don't Understand* will help women lean into these powerful relationships. Best friend, old friend, good friend, bff, college roommate, neighbor, workplace confidante: Women's friendships are a lifeline in times of trouble and a support system for daily life. A friend can be like a sister, daughter, mother, mentor, therapist, or confessor—or she can be all of these at once. She's seen you at your worst and celebrates you at your best. Figuring out what it means to be friends is, in the end, no less than figuring out how we connect to other people. In this illuminating and validating new book, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Deborah Tannen deconstructs the ways women friends talk and how those ways can bring friends closer or pull them apart. From casual chatting to intimate confiding, from talking about problems to telling what you had for dinner, Tannen uncovers the patterns of communication and miscommunication that affect friendships at different points in our lives. She shows how even the best of friends—with the best intentions—can say the wrong thing, and how words can repair the damage done by words. Through Tannen's signature insight, humor, and ability to present pitch-perfect real-life dialogue, readers will see themselves and their friendships on every page. The book explains the power of women friends who show empathy, give advice—or just listen—and how women use talk to connect to friends and to subtly compete—how “Fear of Being Left Out” and “Fear of Getting Kicked Out” can haunt women's friendships—how social media is reshaping communication and relationships. Drawing on interviews with eighty women of diverse backgrounds, ranging in age from nine to ninety-seven, *You Are the Only One I Can Tell* gets to the heart of women's friendships—how they work or fail, how they help or hurt, and how we can make them better. Praise for *You Are the Only One I Can Tell*: “Men will enjoy and profit from this book as much as women will. . . . The moral of these stories [is that] the need for friendship is forever, no matter what forms it takes.” *The Wall Street Journal* “A book about friendship that is also interested in the miscommunication that can so complicate it. . . . The language, in this book about language, is saturated with concepts that apply equally well to romance in its more traditional forms. The language, too, celebrates friendship in its frustrations and its rewards and, above all, its wonderful complexity. It is promoting friendship from a supporting character into a starring role. . . . The loves that the linguist explores in her romantically named book are not merely ones that comfort and sustain women until, one day, the real thing comes along. They are the real thing.” *The Atlantic* “At a time when the messages we give

and get have so many more ways to be misconstrued and potentially damaging, a book that takes apart our language becomes almost vital to our survival as friends. [The Washington Post](#) "With knowledge and wisdom, the author helps readers navigate the subtle workings of language in interactions among women." [Library Journal](#) "[Tannen's] extensive research and writing, full of thought-provoking questions along with facts, are sure to hook readers enticed by her rich topic." [Booklist](#)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have really enjoyed several of Tannen's books in the past, but this one seems to ramble a lot. The premises aren't as clearly articulated as I would like. I haven't finished the book yet, though. Maybe it will come together.

boring. i read halfway through and thought 'i cannot read any more descriptive lists about what

different women did in different situations'. i was glad to learn i was not alone in some of my insecurities, but i could have just asked my girlfriends. several of us bought this on the basis of feeling her "You Just Don't Understand" was remarkable and life changing.

Not up to the standard of her other books. Boring, essentially, to my great surprise.

Very disappointing. Old information and many too many examples which were similiar.

Nothing insightful.

I am a long time fan of Deborah Tannen's books. This one is also interesting but seems to jump around and reference the older works a bit too often. I read the older works and was hoping to more smoothly go through new material. I love the examples Deborah weaves into the books to bring the learning to life.Thanks, Deborah. ;-) keep writing!

Excellent description and understanding of different styles of communication especially between women.A helpful glimpse into the wonderful, wacky, painful, joyous world of women's friendships.

This is one of the best books I've come across on women's friendships, and I've read many. I've learned much about the dynamics that play into female relationships, the desire for someone to connect with - and the pitfalls to beware of. Knowledge is power and this book is a step toward both.

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