

Contents

Preface	ix
1. Introduction	1
Part I. Setting the Stage: Kinship and Genetics	19
2. The Role of Kinship in Human Life	21
3. Family and Kinship in American Society	30
4. Concepts of Heredity in Western Society	44
Part II. Setting Out People's Experience	55
5. People with a Genetic History I: Patients Without Symptoms	57
6. People with a Genetic History II: Recovered Patients	76
7. People Without a Medical History: Adoptees	117
Part III. Implications	173
8. The Ideology of Genetic Inheritance in Contemporary Life: The Medicalization of Kinship	175
9. A Multidimensional Critique of Genetic Determinism	188
10. Conclusion	197

viii Contents

Notes	213
References	243
Index	269
Acknowledgments	277