

CONTENTS

Title Page	1
Abstract	2
Contents	7
Preface	12
Chapter One: Introduction	15
My Professional Interest in this Study	17
What is the Problem?	18
What is Different about Remembering Conversations?	20
What Questions Need Answering?	22
How I Investigated These Questions	23
Overview of Each Chapter	24
Arguments to be Explored in the Discussion of the Data Experiences Resulting from Participation in Remembering Conversations	25 25
The Therapeutic Value of Participation	26
Distinctions Between the Conventional and a Narrative/ Constructionist Orientation to Grief Counseling	26
The Emphasis on a Relational Versus an Individual Orientation to Grief	27
The Focus on the Present and the Future of the Relationship Between the Bereaved and the Deceased, Rather than Just on the Past	27
Maintaining Connection with the Deceased Rather than Letting Go of Relationship	27
The Ongoing Introduction of the Deceased to Others	27
The Giving of “Voice” to the Deceased Rather than Effectively Rendering Them Silent	28
The Emphasis on Multiplicity and Possibility Rather than on Singularity of Story	28
Chapter Two: Defining Grief in the Modern Context	30
On Defining Grief	30

Mourning	30
Bereavement	32
Grief	33
My Orientation to Bereavement and Grief	35
Historical and Cultural Context of Death and Grief	36
Current Hospice Development	44
Chapter Three: Grief becomes a Privatized Illness	46
Sigmund Freud and the Pathologizing of Grief	48
Melanie Klein and Object Relations Theory	54
John Bowlby Mourning and Attachment	58
Erich Lindemann and The Trauma of Grief	64
Colin Murray Parkes and the Pathology of the Normal	70
Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and the Five Stages	76
Kübler-Ross and Bereavement	82
From Early Theory to Present Practice	83
William Worden and the Tasks of Grieving	84
Therese Rando and the Work of Grief	90
Ira Byock and “The Four Things”	94
Alan Wolfelt and the Touchstones of Loss	97
Grief Brochures, Pamphlets, and the Production of Experience	102
Commentary	106
Chapter Four: Postmodern Theory and Grief Psychology	109
Modernism	109
Postmodernism	110
Social Constructionism	112
Linear Progress	114
Memory	117
Power	121
The Self, Identity, and Membership	123
The Construction of Meaning	128
Language	130
Narrative	134
Narrative Therapy & Grief	136
Storytelling and Definitional Ceremony	141
Remembering Conversations	145
Chapter Five: Remembering Our Loved Ones: An Overview	151
Local History	153
Initial Development	155

Group Format	155
Introducing Others to the Deceased Person	160
Understanding the Impact of Discourse on Personal Experiences of Grief	161
Developing the Subjunctive Voice of the Deceased as a Resource for the Living	161
Constructing Pathways Towards Relationship	162
Continuing the Life of the Deceased	162
Group Logistics	163
Recruitment of Participants	164
Screening and Selecting Members	165
Open Verses Closed Groups	166
Voluntary Verses Involuntary Membership	167
Homogeneous verses Heterogeneous Groups	168
Meeting Place	170
Short-term verses Long-term Groups	171
Frequency and Length of Meetings	172
Group Facilitation	173
Weekly Structure of Remembering our Loved Ones	174
Week One: Introducing the Deceased Person	176
Week Two: The Effects of Conventional Discourse on Grief	178
Week Three: Developing the Voice of the Deceased	181
Week Four: Utilizing the Subjunctive Voice to Reclaim the Stories of the Deceased	183
Subjunctive Questioning	184
Week Five: Confronting Challenges	187
Week Six: Who Shares Your Stories	190
Chapter Six: Research Design and Method	193
Research Design	194
Theories Informing the Design	195
Why Narrative Research	196
Research Methods	198
Bereavement Support Groups	198
Participants	199
Exclusions	199
Recruitment	200
Informed Consent	201
Description of Participants	201
Data Collection Methods	203
The Interview and Questions	203
Potential Pitfalls	206
Ethical Considerations	207
Data Analysis Procedures	209

Chapter Seven: When the Story of Death has a Limited Life	214
Introducing the Deceased	215
Understanding the Impact of Discourse on Personal Experiences of Grief	217
Bringing the Deceased person's Voice to the Group	219
How the Deceased Live On	223
Concluding Reflections	225
Further Reflections	227
Chapter Eight: Remembering is Salvific	230
Introducing the Deceased	231
Understanding the Impact of Discourse on Personal Experiences of Grief	232
Impact of Meeting Ernie	234
The Voice of the Deceased as a Resource for the Living	238
How the Deceased Lives On	241
Concluding Reflections	244
Donna's Responses	245
Chapter Nine: Connection that Lives Beyond Unexpected Death	248
Different ways to Introduce the Deceased	249
Understanding the Impact of Discourse on Personal Experiences of Grief	254
Utilizing the Voice of the Deceased to Help with Missing	258
Establishing Longer Connections to the Deceased	260
Political Implications	261
Concluding Reflections	262
Deborah's Reflections	264
Chapter Ten: A Troubled Relationship Remembered	266
The Research Interview	268
Introducing the Deceased	269
Working with Troubled Relationships	271
Tailoring the Group Plans	272
Understanding the Impact of Discourse on Personal Experiences of Grief	273
Locating Stories of Survival	275
Downgrading the Abuser	277
Building a New Membership Community	278
Concluding Remarks	280
Grace's Reflections	282
Chapter Eleven: Making Meaning Of The Data	284
Experiences Resulting from Participation in Remembering Conversations	284

The Therapeutic Value of Participation	290
Distinctions Between Conventional and Narrative/Constructionist Orientation to Grief Counseling	304
The Emphasis on a Relational Versus an Individual Orientation to Grief	304
The Focus on the Present and the Future of the Relationship Between the Bereaved and the Deceased, Rather than Just on the Past	306
Maintaining Connection with the Deceased Rather than Letting Go of Relationship	309
The Ongoing Introduction of the Deceased to Others	312
The Giving of “Voice” to the Deceased Rather than Effectively Rendering Them Silent	313
The Emphasis on Multiplicity and Possibility Rather than on Singularity of Story	315
Limitations of the Research	317
The Researcher’s Reflections	319
References	320
Appendices	331
Appendix A	332
Appendix B	333
Appendix C	334
Appendix D	335
Appendix E	336
Appendix F	337
Appendix G	338
Appendix H	339
Appendix I	342
Appendix J	343
Appendix K	344