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Based on the success of our earlier two volumes, we were encouraged to pursue another edition to update the field with the dramatic changes that have occurred in the field of social anxiety. This third edition of our volume includes again many of the foremost experts in the field of social anxiety from a variety of different disciplines, including social psychology, clinical psychology, psychiatry, developmental psychology, neuroscience, and behavior genetics. The volume is separated into three parts: Part 1: Delineation of Social Anxiety; Part 2: Theoretical Perspectives; and Part 3: Treatment Approaches.

The first part (Part 1: Delineation of Social Anxiety) examines the clinical definition of social anxiety disorder (Chapter 1 by Daniel W. McNeil and Cameron L. Randall), its overlap with avoidant personality disorder (Chapter 2 by James Reich), methods to assess social anxiety and its clinical expressions (Chapter 3 by James D. Herbert, Lynn L. Brandsma, and Laura Fischer) and the overlap between social anxiety and shyness (Chapter 4 by Lynne Henderson, Paul Gilbert, and Philip Zimbardo) and embarrassment (Chapter 5 by Rowland Miller). Moreover, this section examines the different expressions of social anxiety across different cultures (Chapter 6 by Keila C. Brockveld, Sarah J. Perini, and Ronald M. Rapee), the overlap between social anxiety and perfectionism (Chapter 7 by Gordon L. Flett and Paul L. Hewitt), social skills (Chapter 8 by Ariel Stravynski, Angela Kyparissis, and Danielle Amado), and the expression of social anxiety disorder in adults (Chapter 9 by Amy Wenzel and Shari Jager-Hyman), and children and adolescents (Chapter 10 by Michael F. Detweiler, Jonathan S. Comer, Kathleen I. Crum, and Anne Marie Albano). We also included a chapter on prevention and early intervention (Chapter 11 by Paula Barrett and Marita Cooper).

The second part (Part 2: Theoretical Perspectives) includes a chapter reviewing the neuroendocrinological and neuroimaging studies in social anxiety disorder (Chapter 12 by K. Luan Phan and Heide Klumpp) as well as basic issues in temperament (Chapter 13 by Jerome Kagan) and the relationship between social anxiety and one particularly relevant temperament—behavioral inhibition (Chapter 14, also by Jerome Kagan). Chapter 15 by Daniel W. McNeil, Cameron L. Randall, C. W. Lejuez, and John T. Sorrell presents learning and behavior change mechanisms related to social anxiety disorder while Chapter 16 (by Jennie M. Kuckertz and Nader Amir) reviews the cognitive bias literature, followed by emotion dysregulation models (Chapter 17 by Philippe

R. Goldin, Hooria Jazaieri, and James J. Gross), self-related processes (Chapter 18 by Lynn E. Alden, Karen W. Auyeung, and Leili Plasencia), and deficits in positive emotions (Chapter 19 by Antonina S. Farmer, Todd B. Kashdan, and Justin W. Weeks). Also included is a revision of Mark R. Leary's early warning system (Chapter 20, written with Katrina P. Jongman-Sereno) and a chapter on evolutionary perspectives (Chapter 21 by Eva Gilboa-Schechtman, Iris Shachar, and Liat Helpman).

In the final part (Part 3: Treatment Approaches), authors review the therapy literature, including pharmacological treatments (Chapter 22 by Carlos Blanco, Laura Bragdon, Franklin R. Schneier, and Michael R. Liebowitz) and various psychological interventions (Chapter 23 by Kristin N. Anderson and Debra A. Hope). Chapter 24 by Richard G. Heimberg, Faith A. Brozovich and Ronald M. Rapee provides an update of the influential cognitive model. Bram Van Bockstaele and Susan M. Bögels (Chapter 25) review mindfulness-based therapy for social anxiety disorder. Mark B. Powers, Brooke Y. Kauffman, Allison Diamond, and Jasper A. J. Smits review the literature comparing pharmacotherapy and psychological treatments (Chapter 26) and the volume concludes with a review by Michael W. Otto, Steven A. Safren, and Bridget A. Hearon of the mechanisms of action in treatment (Chapter 27).

As is evident, social anxiety has captured the interest of some of the brightest contemporary thinkers of our time and from a multitude of different disciplines. This explosion of research interest and theoretical developments has provided much needed understanding into the universal and transient feelings of social anxiety as well as the less common, but unremitting and debilitating, condition of social anxiety disorder.

It is our hope that our volume consolidates some of the latest evidence and conceptual theories on this topic. We also hope that the breadth of perspective represented in this volume will provide a step further toward understanding social anxiety and its clinical expression. This continues to be an exciting time as our field continues to make significant advances in our understanding, conceptualization, and treatment of a defining aspect of humans that can turn into a debilitating problem.