Physical attractiveness, positive interaction, and similarity combine to produce initial feelings of attraction.

As a relationship develops further, feelings about it come to depend on exchanges of rewards that equitably meet each partner’s needs and self-disclosures that let the partners know each other, eventually resulting in a close relationship involving cognitive interdependence (seeing couple as “we”), behavioral interdependence (giving rewards to benefit partner), and affective interdependence (feelings of psychological intimacy and commitment).
Intense emotional arousal combines with desires for closeness and sexual union to create a new component of a relationship, passion.

Relationship problems may involve unrequited love or relationship conflict, which may be defused by accommodation and communication or lead to break up.