

Dating Violence: Young Women in Danger. Barrie Levy (ed.). Seattle, WA: Seal Press, 1990, Pp. 315 paperback.

As unfortunate as it is that we have to have a book on this topic, *Dating Violence: Young Women in Danger* fills a significant gap in the literature. While, in the past decade, the number of research articles and books devoted to the subject of battering and physical abuse has increased substantially, most of them have focused on adult women in permanent relationships. Up until two years ago, only a few articles specifically addressed adolescents in violent dating relationships.

The author's orientation is prevention and her reason for focusing on adolescence is that the complexion of violence in adolescent dating is altered by the significant aspects of this developmental stage. Developmentally, adolescents are striving to be independent, and this inhibits them from approaching parents and other adults for help, which ultimately contributes to their being at risk. Conformity to peer pressure—in this case to have a boyfriend—can leave adolescent females more at risk, and lack of skill in handling conflict and emotions adds to their vulnerability. Adults tend to underestimate the extent to which these young women are bonded with their partners; consequently expect the relationship to be easily severed. When it is not, they tend to punish or reject the victim. In addition to outlining these significant developmental considerations in the introduction, Levy explains her rationale for a multidimensional approach and for her selection of articles, all of which contribute to the cohesiveness of the book.

The first section offers the reader a compelling collection of autobiographical sketches by teens and parents of teens involved in violent relationships. If you have not worked with young women involved in abusive relationships, you will find yourself quickly immersed in their experience and sensitized to many of the therapeutic and prevention issues.

The next section of the book is devoted to the context which surrounds dating violence, and the

article by Sugarman and Hotaling review most of the significant research. The notion that "underutilization of formal helping agents" is attributable to lack of awareness of resources or to an acceptance of violence as normative is perhaps an oversimplification, but the strength of the article lies in its identification of the need for further research into factors that would be predictive of the ability to terminate the relationship. The article by Dee L.R. Graham and Edna L. Rawlings draws on the psychodynamics of the Stockholm Syndrome to explain the frightening bond that exists between the abuser and the victim. This theoretical model, which was developed to explain political hostage literature, and the relationship that develops between captors and their hostages, has been extrapolated in this article to explain the bond between the abuser and the abused. The authors maintain that it makes about as much sense to talk about predisposing factors in victims as it does to talk about them in relation to which plane gets hijacked. The focus is instead placed on the interrelationship between the abuser and the abused, not on traits that may have "caused" the victim to be abused. The importance of this article for therapists is that it serves as a constant reminder of the "survival value of the clients' symptoms," and reduces the tendency of therapists to push clients to give up these symptoms before they are ready.

The third section offers a range of interventions from the well-thought out community plan of the Jersey Battered Women's Service to a one-on-one relationship between a social worker and a victim. The chapter "Overcoming Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Adolescent Date Rape Survivors" provides a sensitive look at the impact of trauma on the adolescent developmental tasks of separation and individuation, and an innovative discussion of individual counselling strategies for overcoming post-traumatic stress. Like the article on the Stockholm Syndrome, it advises against pushing clients, particularly those still in abusive relationships, to give up their symptoms since, in all probability, the symptoms serve a survival function. Other articles deal with the compounding effect of cultural and social factors on dating violence.

The book's final section focuses on educational programs. The goals of the programs tend to be similar, although the strategies for implementing the goals tend to vary from support group models, to improvisational theatre or the infusion of related subject matter into the school curriculum. Ginny NiCarthy outlines in considerable detail goals and exercises for a short-term group program. Many of the exercises are premised on the notion that individuals can be addicted to others as well as to substances, and that these individuals are more vulnerable to physical violence from dating partners.

This collection provides a practical casebook for both professionals and paraprofessionals.

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The Montreal Massacre. Louise Malette and Marie Chalouh (eds.), translated by Marlene Wildeman. *Charlottetown, PEI: Gynergy Books, 1991, Pp. 184 paperback.*

This book, the translation into English of *Polytechnique, 6 décembre*, testifies to the reflective process that took place in Québec after the 1989 misogynist slaying of 14 women at the Université de Montréal. As the editors, Louise Malette and Marie Chalouh, specify, it permits us women to identify with our history. For them, as for us, the memory of December 6, 1989, is a must.

I am writing the review of this important book on July 17, 1991, in Halifax, and wish to quote from today's edition of *The Chronicle Herald*, which reports on a presentation to the 33rd Annual International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, in Halifax, made by Mr. Richard Aubé, Security Manager at the École Polytechnique de Montréal (5,500 students, a nine-member security force), where the massacre took place. Mr. Aubé does not believe that the massacre could have been prevented, since campuses are not armed camps, but he is convinced that better control of access to the school and better federal legislation regarding gun control could have re-

duced the number of victims. He is reported as having said:

The massacre continues to traumatize the student body.

Four students have died since the shootings and two of the deaths have been confirmed as suicides.

In one case, the parents of a student who committed suicide subsequently killed themselves.

Readers may want to know that this last student was male, traumatized by the guilt he felt about not having tried to help the victims. We must realize that the misogynist act of December 6 is not only one of history but continues into the present.

Forty-nine texts—letters to the editor, analyses and articles published by Montreal papers, as well as some unpublished pieces—speak of the sorrow and the rage of women and of their determination to see in this terrorist act a political one, against women and against feminism.

The volume comprises six sections. In "The Ideal Site for the Crime," Louky Bersianik disapprovingly quotes the French writer Alain Robbe-Grillet who dared say, "To be sure, in the world of male fantasy, woman's body serves as the ideal site for the crime." She then outlines the reality of violence against women, in Canada and elsewhere, a reality that has nothing to do with fantasy.

In "No Motive for the Crime," a section that clearly identifies misogyny as the motive for the crime, Francine Pelletier states: "A misogyny so precise and brutal that it brings to mind the witch-hunts of earlier eras; a misogyny clearly expressed, lying right there in print [in the killer's suicide note]" (34).

With the section "Fearful Words," the book presents an analysis of the media's attitude concerning the massacre, their insistent denial of its misogyny. The media, for instance, spoke first of the "étudiants" instead of "étudiantes," then declared that this was an incomprehensible crime without motive, even though the killer had quite