

# PULLING BACK THE CURTAIN:

What our community needs to understand  
about domestic and dating abuse

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Strafford County Public Health Network

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# JAMES GOLIGHTLY AND TRACI WINSHIP

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# NEWS

## **Restraining orders don't stop murder**

Traci Winship was shot to death by her former boyfriend, James Golightly, in Dover on April 28, 1998. Golightly shot himself to death after the murder. Winship also had a restraining order against her estranged boyfriend. Golightly had been in jail for violating that court document just six days before this murder-suicide.



# INTERPERSONAL ABUSE IS UBIQUITOUS

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- In 2018, domestic violence accounted for 20% of all violent crime (According to BJS).
- NH: 34.7% of women and 35.4% of men experience intimate partner physical, sexual violence and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been victims of physical violence
- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men have been victims of sexual violence
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will be stalked in their lifetime

# RESOURCES IN YOUR FOLDER AND VIA EMAIL

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- Domestic violence fact sheet
- Sexual assault fact sheet
- Understanding stalking
- The effects of domestic violence on children
- Responding to elder abuse in New Hampshire
- Domestic violence screening and help sheet
- Danger assessment tools (DA-5 and DA)
- Primary prevention of domestic and sexual violence in New Hampshire

# WHAT?

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# DEFINING THE PROBLEM: VIOLENCE?

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- The systematic use of
- Physical or other forms of abuse
- To control an intimate partner
- That is in part socially sanctioned.
- It tends to get worse over time
- Without meaningful intervention.

# MISLEADING TO ONLY LOOK AT PHYSICAL VIOLENCE



TAKE A LOOK AT  
DIFFERENT AREAS OF  
LIFE THEY ARE  
TARGETING.

NOT JUST THE ACT,  
BUT THE INTENT  
AND RESULT!





# Array of tactics based on areas of victim's life being targeted

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- Physical
- Sexual
- Reproductive
- Emotional
- Psychological
- Spiritual
- Social
- Economic
- Strangulation
- Symbolic
- Environmental
- Cultural
- Medical
- Legal
- Use of alcohol/other drugs
- Use of children
- Stalking

# WHO?

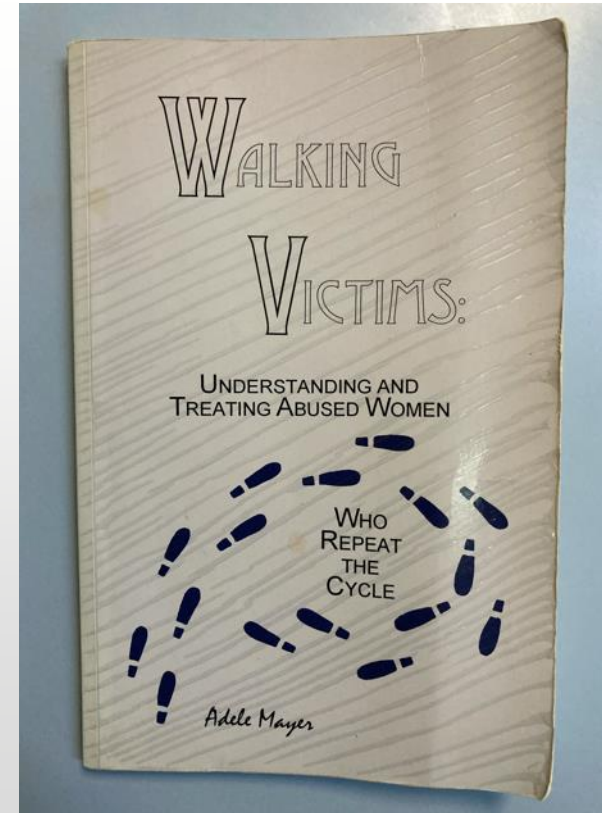
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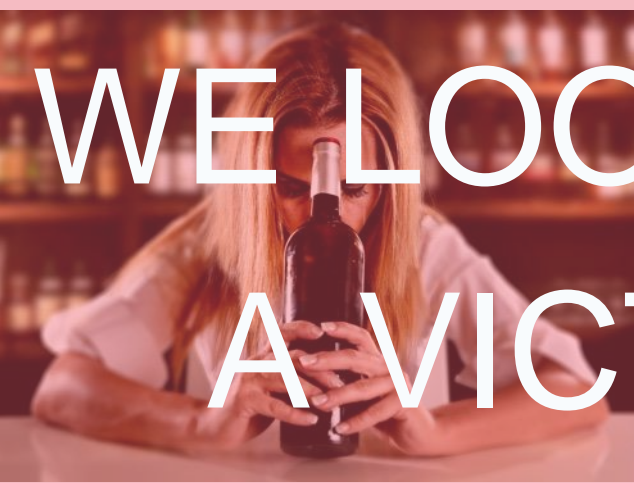


## DEFINING THE PROBLEM?

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“Drawn to abusers, the adult victim engages in power plays until she subtly assumes control. Her games often result in rape and battery with her partner’s resultant shame and guilt satisfying her power needs. In the end, the male partner loses control and the female is vindicated by his brutality and its accompanying legal and emotional repercussions.”





# WE LOOK AT THE BEHAVIOR OF A VICTIM OUT OF CONTEXT



Why does she keep picking abusive men?

Kleenex®  
BRAND  
TISSUE



# SOURCES OF POWER THAT CAN BE EXPLOITED

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Determining the predominant aggressor

# SOURCES OF POWER

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- Money
- Physical size and strength
- Physical appearance
- Intelligence
- Education
- Social status
- Immigration status
- Age
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Race
- Religious or political affiliation
- Health/disabilities/diagnoses
- Criminal record





IT'S NOT JUST WHO ABUSES WHOM BUT ALSO  
THE IMPACT ON THE CHILDREN.....



**Figure 2: Prevalence of adverse childhood events in study population (in percent)**

ACE Score (sum of categories, not events)	Prevalence
0	33%
1	25%
2	15%
3	10%
4	6%
5 or more	11%

**ACEs tend to come in groups...**

	Additional ACEs (%)				
	1	2	3	4	$\geq 5$
<i>If you had:</i>					
A battered mother	95	82	64	48	52

# IMPACT OF EXPOSURE

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- How many are exposed?
  - 3.3 million annually (Carlson, 1984)
  - 10 million teenagers annually (Straus, 1992)
  - At least 1/3 of American children have witnessed violence between parents (Straus, 1992)

# PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH

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- Isolation
- Degradation (attitude and appearance)
- 30% ER visits due to DV
- Jealousy of own child
- Miscarriage not only consequence but goal
- Number one cause of maternal death

# CHILDHOOD

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- Direct and indirect abuse
- Abuses child: 40-60% who abuse mom, also abuse the children (APA, 1996)
- Batterers 6X more likely to incest daughter
- Batterer models abuse
- Child witnesses/participates in abuse
- Threatens abuse/abduction of child
- Undermines mother's authority

# SUPPORT, CUSTODY, VISITATION

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- 15% have custody; 70% with effort
  - (Supreme Judicial Court, MA – 1989)
  - Risk to child of batterer gaining custody
- Deadbeat dads
- Resurfacing to control mother
- Failure to protect
- Reporting incest by father backfires
- Visitation center used as a stalking center

# TEENAGE YEARS

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- Dating
  - Son has developed expectations
  - Daughter has developed tolerance
  - Result: perpetuate imbalance of power
- Retaliation
  - 62% of teens incarcerated for homicide killed mom's batterer (NJ Coalition for BW, 1998)



# COMING FULL CIRCLE

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- The child becomes a spouse and parent
  - Boys who witnessed abuse more likely to abuse
  - Girls who witnessed abuse, more likely to stay with an abuser
  - What about their children???

# WHEN?

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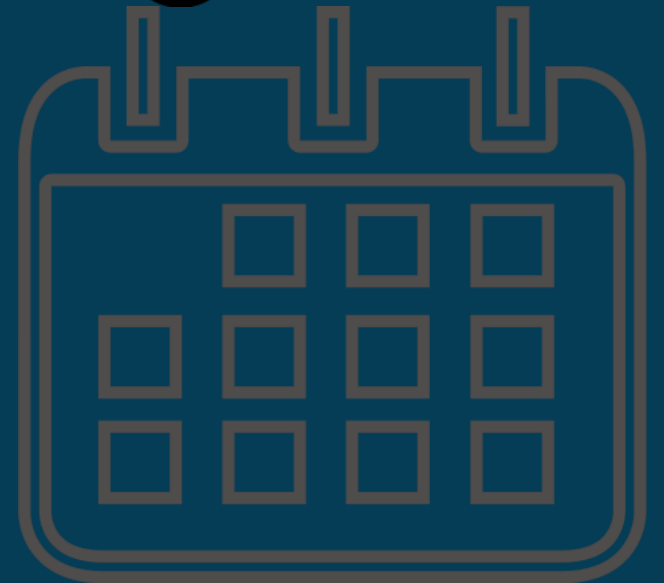
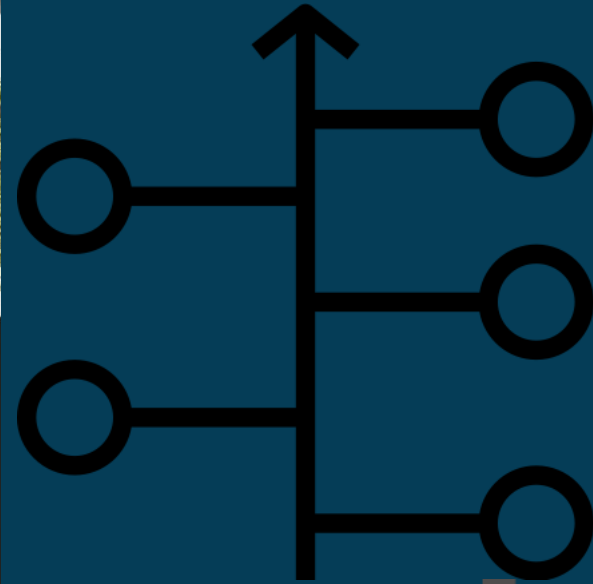


ABUSER



FIRST DATE

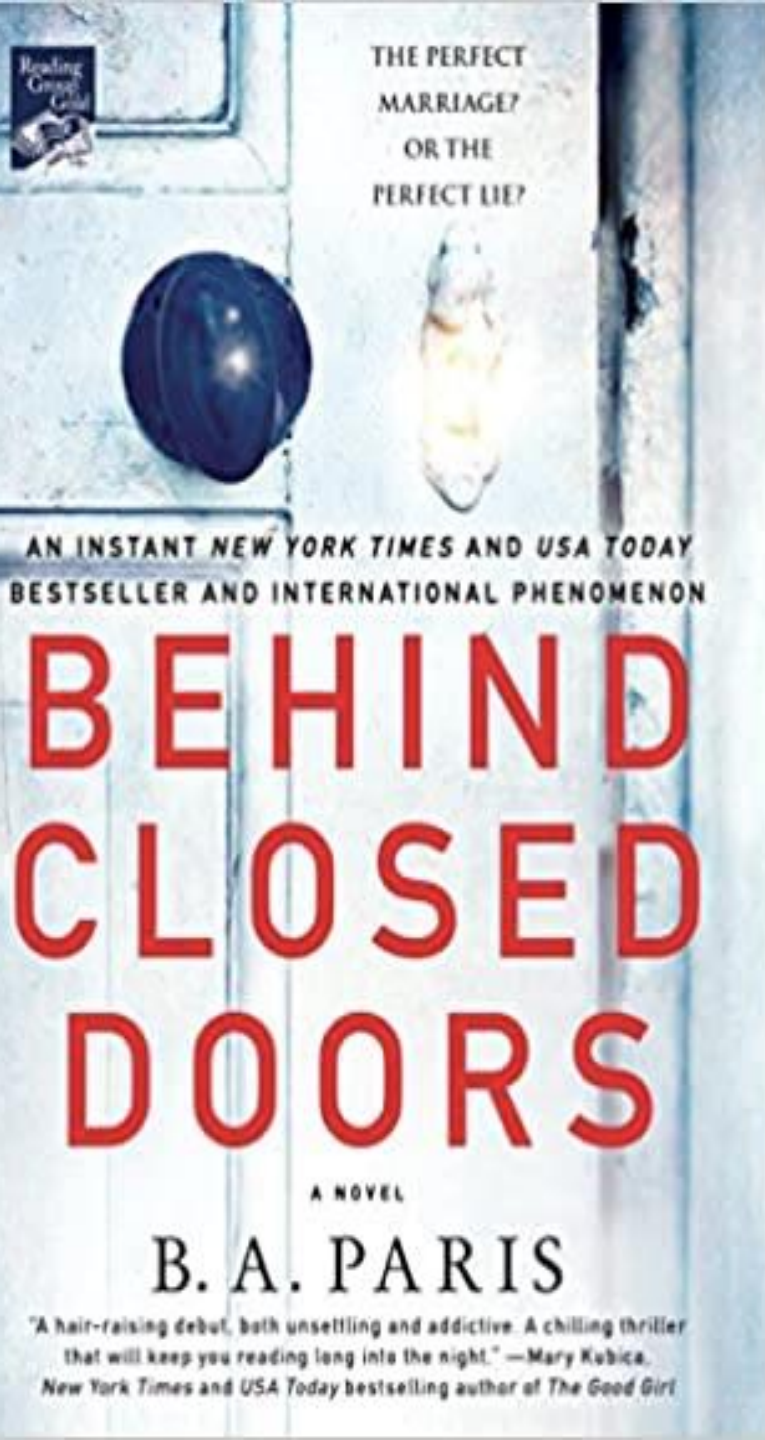
# TRUTH IN ADVERTISING





# WHERE?

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THE PERFECT  
MARRIAGE?  
OR THE  
PERFECT LIE?

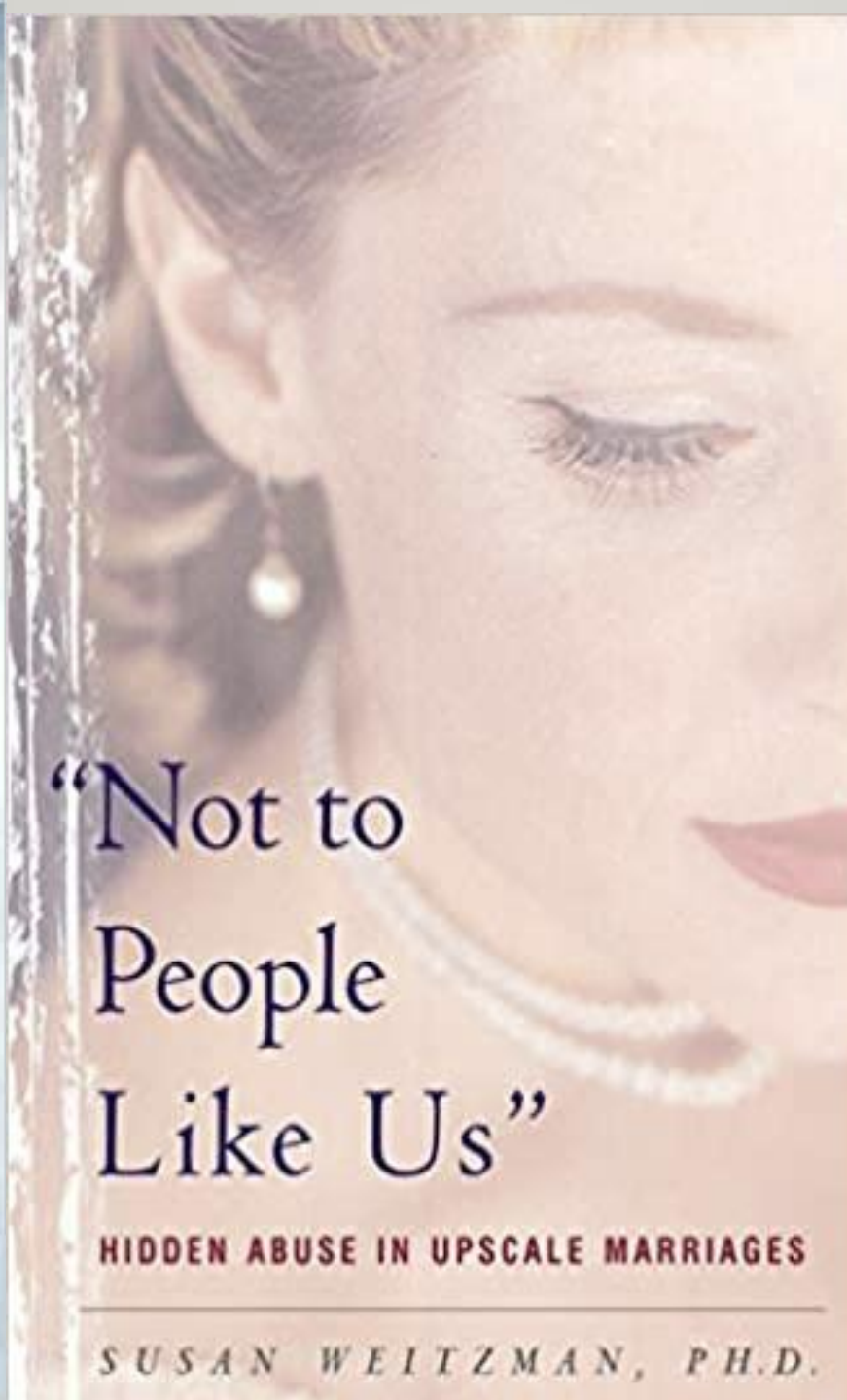
AN INSTANT *NEW YORK TIMES* AND *USA TODAY*  
BESTSELLER AND INTERNATIONAL PHENOMENON

# BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

A NOVEL

B. A. PARIS

"A hair-raising debut, both unsettling and addictive. A chilling thriller that will keep you reading long into the night." —Mary Kubica,  
*New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Good Girl*



"Not to  
People  
Like Us"

HIDDEN ABUSE IN UPSCALE MARRIAGES

SUSAN WEITZMAN, PH.D.

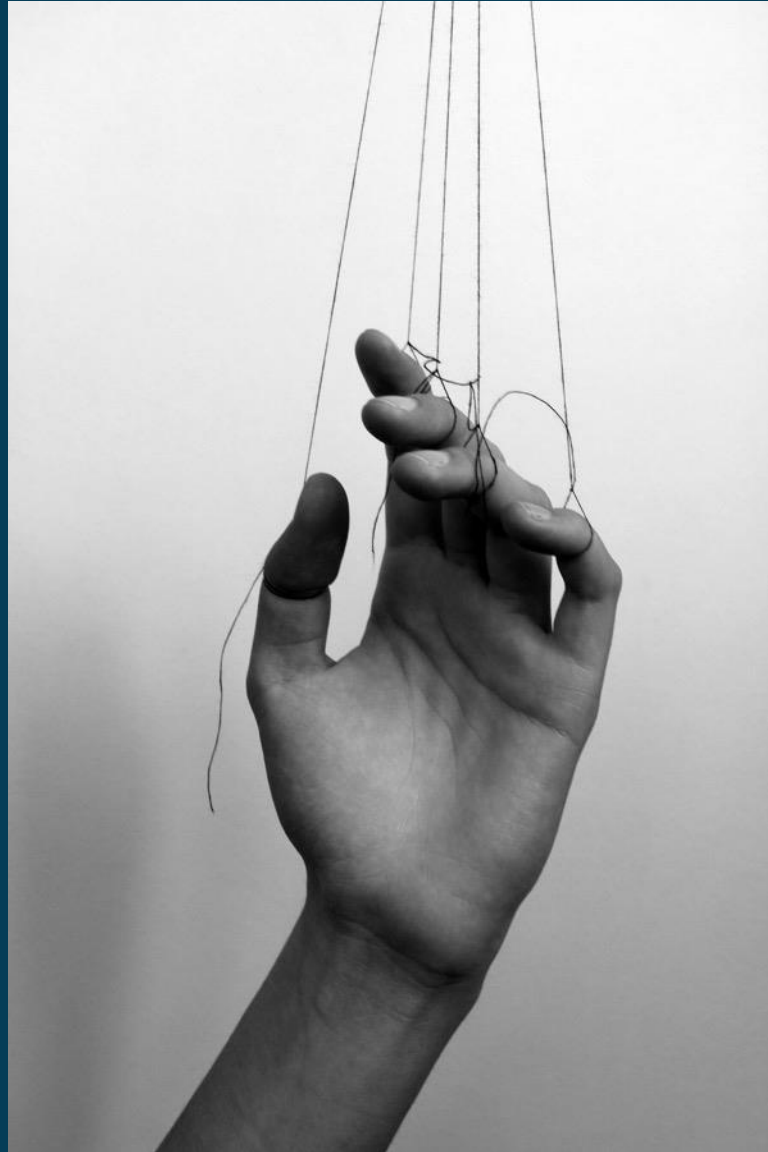
# THE PUBLIC NATURE OF PRIVATE VIOLENCE

THE DISCOVERY OF  
DOMESTIC ABUSE

MARTHA ALBERTSON FINEMAN  
ROXANNE MYKITIUK



# "Choices are good."





# When Domestic Violence Comes to Work

65 percent of employers don't have a plan for domestic violence

....He shot her  
on the steps to  
the courthouse.

## CHECK OUT AISLE #2!!

Visitation Center  
or **stalking** center?

Many victims of domestic violence attempt to escape their abusers by residing at unknown locations. Consequently, the victims' workplace often becomes the one reliable place abusers can find them.

"If it's that bad just leave!"

Separation violence –  
**DEADLY!**

# WHY?

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*“So why did you hit your wife?”*



*“I’m sick of all of these angry, drunk,  
out of control wife beaters!”*

-First responder

*“I’m sick of all of these **angry**, drunk,  
out of control wife beaters!”*

*-First responder*

# THE 30-SECOND ANGER MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT



*“I’m sick of all of these angry, drunk,  
out of control wife beaters!”*

*-First responder*

“When I first came to your program, I told you that I only hit her because I was drunk.”



“Now I realize that I drank so I could hit her.”

*“I’m sick of all of these angry, drunk,  
out of control wife beaters!”*

-First responder

*True enough.  
But “out of control” of what exactly?*

*If you had to give up one form of abuse, but  
not have to give up control, .....*

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# Which of these tactics would he prefer to give up?

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- Physical
- Sexual
- Reproductive
- Emotional
- Psychological
- Spiritual
- Social
- Economic
- Strangulation
- Symbolic
- Environmental
- Cultural
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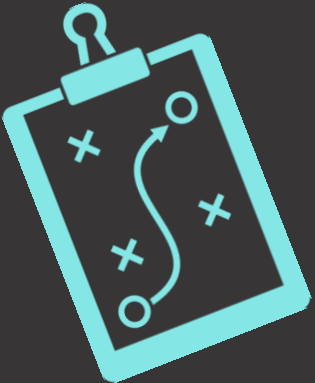
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# HOW?

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# PLAYBOOK: 4 Tasks for Offenders.

## SELECTION

IDENTIFY  
a victim

## ACQUISITION

GAIN ACCESS to that  
victim

## ABUSE

COMMIT the abuse  
(sexual, physical,  
others)

## ESCAPE

AVOID accountability



# “MY JOB IS TO MAKE HER UGLY”

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- Use of violence
- Use of alcohol/drugs
- Child abuse
- Converting vulnerabilities into flaws

# The three layers hiding the reality of abuse

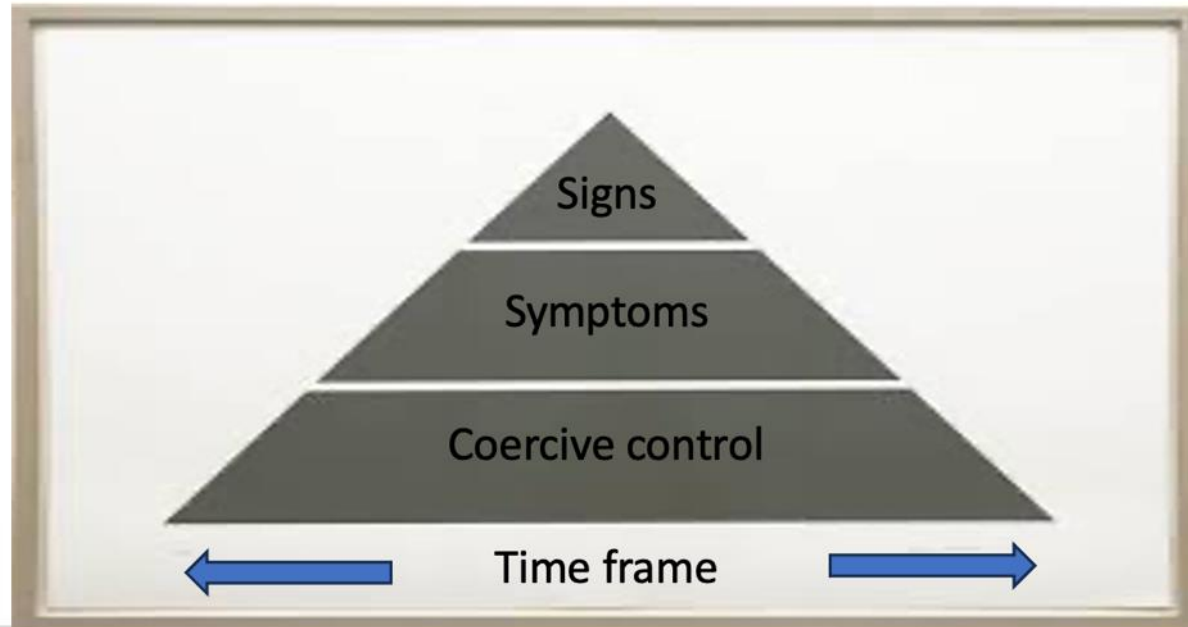
## Working backward from what we see

- Signs
- Symptoms
- Coercive control



## Actual progression beginning with abuse

- Abuser's behavior
- Victim's experience
- Our observation



# COUNTERINTUITIVE DECISIONS BY VICTIMS/SURVIVORS

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## WHAT WE “OBSERVE”

- Victim’s use of violence
- Inconsistent or delayed reporting
- Recanting/testifying for defense
- Returning to an abuser
- “Violating” protective orders
- “Failing” to protect the children
- Parental “alienation”

## WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW

- Predominant aggressor analysis
- Different from stranger abuse
- Gradual escalation
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Trauma response
- Attributional errors

# BATTERER INTERVENTION "SYSTEMS"

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- Consider these two propositions: Key
  - *"BIP's make better batterers"*
  - *"BIP's will never stop battering"*
- Analogous to the annual checkup with your doctor