

HOW DOES THE DOMESTIC ABUSER GET AWAY WITH IT?

Lundy Bancroft

Definition of Domestic Abuse

- **A pattern of coercive control, usually made up primarily of psychological abuse, sexual coercion, and economic abuse, that is punctuated by one or more acts of frightening physical violence, credible threat of physical harm, or sexual assault**

Abuser Profile

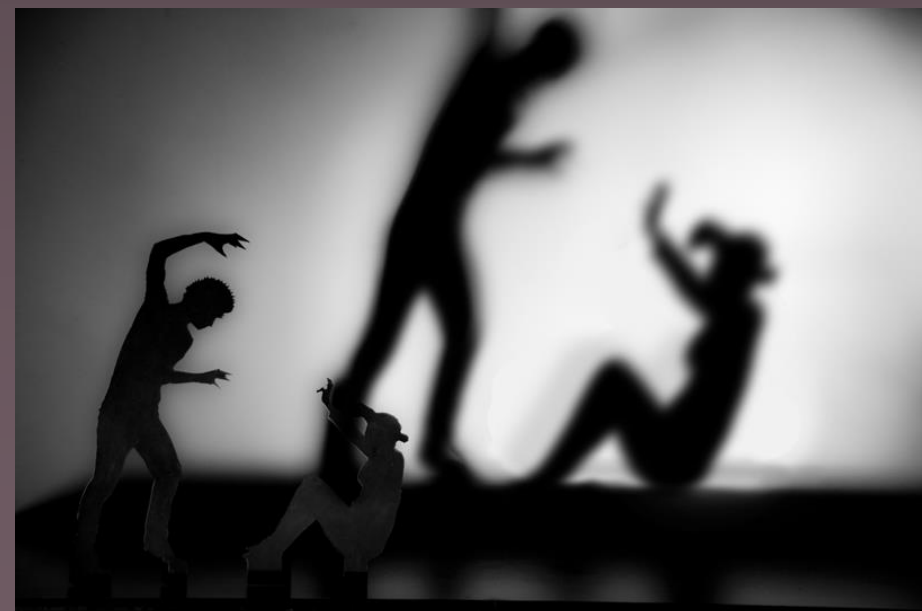
Consistently True:

- Coercively controlling, intimidating, isolating
- Entitled / Self-centered
- Believes *he* is the victim
- Manipulative / Good public image
- Behavior is driven by deep, long-held attitudes

Abuser Profile

Consistently True:

- Disrespectful, Superior, Depersonalizing
- Punishes, retaliates
- Finds his abusive behavior rewarding
- Mentality of ownership, objectification



Myths About Abusers

- Skill deficits
- Psychopathology
- Poor, ethnic minority

Contributing Factors

- Substance abuse
- Mental illness
- Community collusion
- Lack of consequences



Abuser Attitudes

- She's inferior to me (less intelligent, less logical, less competent, less generous).
- It's her job to keep me happy.
- She owes me sex.
- I'm not answerable to her. She has no right to call me on my actions.

Abuser Attitudes

- I have the last word. My will rules.
- It's her job to keep the children from bothering me.
- I decide how money gets spent.
- She has no right to stand up.
- She's a piece of garbage.
- She should be grateful to me.

Impact on Family Dynamics

- Undermining of mother's authority
- Interference with mother's parenting
- Use of the children as weapons
- Sowing of divisions



Abusers' Risk to Abuse Children

- **PHYSICAL ABUSE**

- 49% of batterers
- 7x more likely than a non-batterer
- Correlated with level of physical abuse of partner
- Other indicators; level of control, substance abuse, rigid belief system, abused as a child



Abusers' Risk to Abuse Children

- SEXUAL ABUSE
 - 6x more likely than a non-batterer
 - Correlated with presence of violence towards partner but not with severity
 - Other indicators; high entitlement, self-centered, use of children to meet his own needs, manipulative, seeing children as personal possessions, substance abuse, low involvement in infant care

Elements of Change

- Consequences
- Education
- Confrontation
- Accountability



Elements of Change

- Increased criminal penalties, including convictions
- Other consequences, including workplace and faith community

Elements of Change

- A child welfare response that holds him entirely responsible for his own actions – Mom cannot control him.
- He will generally get more time alone with them if she leaves him!

Educating and Challenging Batterers

- Firm, respectful confrontation
- Educational style
- Non-inflammatory
- Avoiding collusion



Holding Batterers Accountable

- ☐ Close monitoring and supervision
- ☐ Press him to deal with his abusiveness
- ☐ Don't take his word on his progress or behavior
- ☐ Maintain relationship with victim



Holding Batterers Accountable

- Imposing new consequences for new abusive behaviors
- Taking the victim's side
- Remaining connected to the abuser if possible

IN CUSTODY

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A CARRIE GREEN NOVEL

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