Sexual Coercion

Chapter 18
Truth or Fiction?

1.) Women are raped in the United States at a rate of more than one every minute.

2.) The majority of rapes are committed by strangers in deserted neighborhoods or darkened alleyways.

3.) Ten times as many women as men are raped in the United States.
4.) Men who rape other men are gay.
5.) Many women say no when they mean yes.
6.) Most rapists are mentally ill.
7.) Father-daughter incest is the most common type of incest.
1990's: Affair between Bill Clinton and a White House intern named Monica Lewinsky...many argued that their relationship comprised sexual harassment because of the disparity in their power even though Lewinsky was a willing partner.

2000's: American priests who sexually abused children. Ex. The Boston Archdiocese was reported to have received over 1,000 complaints of child sexual abuse and turned a blind eye to the charges.
Has the church's requirement that priests remain celibate contributed to the problem? Yes or no?

The US Air Force Academy had "traditions" that encouraged or legitimizised the sexual assault of female cadets.

Cases where attractive women were prosecuted for having sex with minor boys.
Many grown men question whether these boys were sexually abused or just "got lucky".

The bringing of these cases to court reflects a decline in the double standard that is applied to men and women.

Increasing numbers of female police and prosecutors are less likely to buy into the traditional idea that boys who have sex with older women have something to be thankful for.
Rape: The Most Intimate Crime of Violence

- Rape: sexual activity that takes place without consent.

- 1.3 million women each year are victimized by the most common crime of violence.

- The subjugation of women by men by force or threat of force
For the first few thousand years of history, the only rapes that were punished were those that defiled virgins.

These rapes were considered crimes against property---not crimes against persons. (virgins being the property of their fathers)
In ancient Babylonia, rape laws applied to married women as well.

Babylonian law required the assailant and his victim to be bound and thrown into a river. As the injured party, the husband could choose to save his wife or let her drown.

Hence...blaming the victim
Ancient Hebrews stoned to death a woman who was raped, along with her assailant.

Ancient Babylonian and Hebrew cultures charged the wife with adultery.

The ancient Hebrews also stoned virgins who were raped because it was thought that they could have maintained their purity by crying out.
The current definition of rape varies from state to state.

Forcible rape: sexual activity obtained by the use of force or the threat of force...non-consenting.

Statutory rape: Sexual activity with a person below the age of consent, even when the victim cooperates.
Traditionally, a man could not be convicted of raping his wife, even though he might have forced her to submit to sexual activity by physical power or threats.

The marital exclusion was derived from the English common law that held that a woman "gives herself over" to her husband and cannot retract her consent.
Today, many states permit the prosecution of husbands who rape their wives.

Rape laws also apply to men who rape men and to women who coerce men into sexual activity or assist men in raping other women.

Forcible rape is a form of sexual assault.
Incidence of Rape

- The numbers of women who have been raped are both inconsistent and staggering.
- 84,767 forcible rapes occurred in 2011, according to the FBI.
- Unfortunately, these are only rapes that have been tracked when reported to authorities.
CDC (Centers for Disease Control) defines rape as completed forced penetration, forced penetration facilitated by alcohol or other substances, or attempted forced penetration.

1 in 5 women report being raped.

1 in 71 men have reported being raped (many before age 11).

2 out of 3 female rape victims are between the ages of 11 to 24 yrs old.
The vast majority of rapes in the United States go unreported.

This means that two women in the United States are raped every minute on the average.

Why do most rape victims not report the assault?
Many women choose not to report assaults because of concern that they will be humiliated by the criminal justice system.

Others fear reprisal from their families or the rapist.

Some fear that the offender will not be prosecuted.

For example: Mexican American women are likely to remain quiet about rape and sexual abuse because they live in a culture in which women are often expected to "suffer in silence".
Another reason why women do not report rape is that they mistakenly believe that coercive sex is rape only when the rapist is a stranger.

Other women mistakenly assume that only forced vaginal penetration by the penis is rape.

Most states define rape more broadly, also considering nonconsensual anal and oral penetration by the penis or a finger or by a foreign object to be rape.

Some states count attempted rape as rape.
It is also important to note that 1 in 4 women have experienced severe physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner when compared to 1 in 7 men.
Types of Rape

➤ It is not true that the majority of rapes are committed by strangers in deserted neighborhoods or darkened alleyways.

➤ Actually, most women are raped by men they know, often by men that have come to trust.

➤ Only 4% of women were "forced to do something sexual that they did not want to do" by a stranger.

➤ According to the U.S Department of Justice, about 83% of rapes are committed by acquaintances of the victim.
Stranger Rape

 nâ« Refers to rape committed by an assailant (or assailants) who is not previously known to the person attacked.

 nâ« The stranger rapist often selects targets that seem vulnerable such as women who live alone, who are older or mentally challenged, who are walking down deserted streets or who are asleep or intoxicated.

 nâ« After selecting a victim, the rapist may search for a safe time and place to commit the crime
Acquaintance Rape

- As previously stated, women are more likely to be raped by men they know such as classmates, fellow office workers or even their brothers' friends.

- Less likely to be reported to police.

- One reason is that victims may not perceive sexual assaults by acquaintances as rapes.

- Only 1/4 of sexually assaulted women consider themselves as rape victims when assaulted by acquaintances.
Acquaintance rapists tend to rationalize their behavior by believing in myths such as the traditional view that men are expected to assume a sexually aggressive role in dating and the belief that rapists are strangers.

Even when acquaintance rapes are reported to police, they may be treated as "misunderstandings" or "lovers' quarrels" rather than violent crimes.
Date Rape

➢ Date rape is a form of acquaintance rape.

➢ As many as one college woman in four reports being forced into sexual intercourse by dates.

➢ More likely to occur when the couple has had too much to drink and then park in the man's car or goes back to his residence.

➢ The man tends to perceive his partner's willingness to return home with him as a signal of sexual interest, even if she resists his advances.
-believe that acceptance of a date indicates willingness to have sexual relations.

-May think that women should reciprocate with sex if they are taken to dinner.

-Assume that women who frequent places like single bars are expressing tacit agreement to sex with men who show interest in them.

-Believe that women who resist advances are "protesting too much" so that they aren't seen as "easy".
May perceive that when a woman says no, they mean yes...especially when a sexual relationship has been established.

Perpetrators and victims view sexual assaults in very different ways.

Women see themselves as overpowered and deeply hurt.

Men often focus on their own feelings, ignoring those of the victim and act on their sexual frustration when the woman says it's time to call it quits.
The more the man focuses on his own wants and ignores those of the woman, the more likely he is to commit rape.

The motive may be sexual but the man remains a violent criminal who refuses to take no for an answer.

Issue of consent... when is rape consensual? When is it rape?
Cases of date rape often come down to his word versus hers.

Her word often becomes less persuasive in the eyes of the jury if it was clear that she had consented to acts beforehand, such as sharing dinner, attending the movies together, accompanying him to his home, sharing a drink alone and perhaps kissing or petting.

Further clouded because some victims continue their relationships and even marry the perpetrator.
Children who are sexually assaulted often suffer social and emotional problems that impair their development and persist into adulthood.

Affects their self esteem and their ability to form intimate relationships.
• It is believed that between 200,000 to 300,000 children are sexually abused annually.

• Children who experience sexual harassment are estimated to be around 2 million annually.

• Almost all sexually abused children are girls.

• One-quarter to one-third are males.

• An analysis of 65 studies in 22 countries concluded that 7 to 8% of boys and 19 to 20% of girls have been sexually abused.

• The actual % may be higher but many fail to be reported due to faulty memory, shame or embarrassment.
Sexual abuse of children ranges from exhibitionism, kissing, fondling and sexual touching to oral sex and anal intercourse and with girls, vaginal intercourse.

Sexual contact between an adult and child is abusive, even if the child is willing, since children legally cannot give consent.
Sexual abuse also occurs on the internet.

Pornographic images and invitations to join XXX chat rooms, to interact with women who disrobe online and to contact prostitutes and women who are seeking "clandestine affairs" or "pop ups"

1 in 4 children reported an unwanted exposure to pornography, down from one in three in 2000.

How do we protect our children from internet "creeps"?
Voluntary sexual activity between children of similar ages is not sexual abuse.

Children often engage in consensual sex play with peers or siblings, as in "playing doctor" or in mutual masturbation.

If the sex play is the result of coercion by an older child, it can be viewed as sexual abuse.
Children in most cases who are sexually abused are not accosted by the proverbial stranger lurking in the school yard. Instead, many molesters are relatives, steprelatives, family friends and neighbors.

Parents who find out that their child has been molested by a relative are less likely to report the crime to the authorities.

Some may feel that it is a "family matter."

Others fear that the crime will bring shame to the family or the parent will be blamed for not protecting his or her daughter/son.
Most parents will report sexual abuse by strangers but according to a recent study of abused children by those close to them, none were reported.

Physical abuse is rarely seen in such cases due to the trust between the child and their abuser.

Sexual abuse is more likely to occur again in situations where the abuser is a family member.
Genital fondling is the most common form of abuse. Intercourse is rare.

Repeated abuse by a family member follows a pattern: fondling during preschool, progresses to oral sex or mutual masturbation during the early school years and then penetration in preadolescence/adolescence.

First cases of sexual abuse occur between 6 to 12 yrs old in girls and 7 to 10 yrs old in boys.
Types of Abusers

- A majority of people who sexually abuse children are males.
- Male adolescent sex offenders are more likely to have been molested themselves.
- May be imitating their own victimization
- Adolescent child molesters may tend to feel socially inadequate and to be fearful of social interactions with age-mates of the other gender
Even though a majority of sexual abusers are male, the number of female sexual abusers may be higher than expected.

Female sexual abusers may go undetected because society allows women freer range of physical contact with children.

A woman who fondles a child might be seen as affectionate.

What motivates a woman to sexually abuse children?
Some females may have a history of being rejected by abusive males.

Others can be victims of manipulation.

Unmet emotional needs and low self-esteem and may have been seeking acceptance, closeness, and attention through sexual acts with children.

Some view their crimes as expressions of love.

May be motivated by unusual patterns of sexual arousal, pedophilia.
Pedophilia

- is a paraphilia in which an adult finds children to be the preferred and sometimes exclusive objects of sexual desire.
- The number of people who embrace pedophilia is unknown.
- Although pedophiles are sometimes called child molesters, not all child molesters are pedophiles.
Pedophilia involves persistent or recurrent sexual attraction to children.

Some molesters are considered "occasional"

Pedophiles are almost exclusively males.

Some are ONLY attracted to children while others may be attracted to both children and adults.

Some look at children or undress them.

Others fondle them or masturbate in their presence.

Others manipulate children into penetration.
Pedophiles lure children by telling the child that "they would like to show them something", "teach them something" or "do something with them that they would like"

Seek to gain the child's affection and discourage the child from disclosing the sexual activity by showering the child with attention and gifts...others threaten the child or the child's family

Many pedophiles have personality disorders...emotionally unstable, disagreeable, angry, impulsive and mistrustful.
Some pedophiles who lack in social skills may turn to children after failing to establish gratifying relationships with adult women.

Many distort reality in a way to enable them to pursue sexual activity with children and often...

---see children as sexual beings who want to have sex with adults
---believe that sex does not harm children and may be beneficial
---think of themselves as being so important that they are entitled to sex with whomever they want
---see others are dangerous and controlling and think they must fight to gain control of their lives
---believe they cannot control their impulses
Incest

- Incest: involves people who are related, usually by blood.
- Incest taboos were created to prevent the harmful effects of inbreeding that may result when genetic defects or diseases are carried within the family bloodline.
- Children may suffer from mental retardation or physical abnormalities.
- Reduces genetic variation in the gene pool, therefore, it can reduce the ability of the population to adapt to changes in the environment.
Most of our knowledge of incestuous relationships concerns father-daughter incest.

About 1% of sampled women in 5 cities reported a sexual encounter with a father or stepfather.

Brother-sister incest is the most common form of incest.

21% of college men and 39% of college women have reported an incestuous relationship with a sibling.

Only 4% reported an incestuous relationship with their fathers.

Mother-daughter incest is the least common.
Father-daughter incest often begins with affectionate cuddling or embraces, then progresses to teasing, sexual play, lengthy caresses, hugs, kisses, genital contact and even penetration.

In some cases, genital contact occurs more abruptly, when the father has been drinking or has been arguing with his wife.
In sibling incest, the brother usually initiates sexual activity and assumes the dominant role.

Penetration is more frequent in brother-sister incest (71%) than in stepfather-stepdaughter incest (27%) or father-daughter incest (35%).

May be viewed as natural experimentation or play.

Sibling incest is most likely to be harmful when it is forced or when parental response is harsh.
Incest frequently occurs within the context of family disruption, as in families in which there is spouse abuse, a dysfunctional marriage or alcoholic or physically abusive parents.

Fathers who abuse older daughters tend to be domineering and authoritarian with their families...fathers who abuse younger, preschool daughters are more likely to be passive, dependent and low in self-esteem.

Classic research by Gephard found that many fathers who committed incest with their daughters were religiously devout, fundamentalist and moralistic.

Father may fantasize about his daughter as the "woman in the house"
Effects of Sexual Abuse on Children

Sexual abuse inflicts great psychological harm on the child, whether perpetrated by a family member, acquaintance or stranger.

May suffer from anger, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, inappropriate sexual behavior, aggressive behavior, self-destructive behavior, sexual promiscuity, drug abuse, suicide attempts, PTSD, low self-esteem, sexual dysfunction, mistrust of others and feelings of detachment.

Sexual abuse may also have physical effects such as genital injuries and cause psychosomatic problems such as stomach aches and headaches.
Abused children often "act out"...

Sexual development of abused children may also be shaped in dysfunctional ways...the survivor may become prematurely sexually active or promiscuous.

How do prevent children from being sexually abused???