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Dangerous Exits: Escaping Abusive Relationships In Rural America (Critical Issues In Crime And Society)



Synopsis

Decade after decade, violence against women has gained more attention from scholars, policy makers, and the general public. Social scientists in particular have contributed significant empirical and theoretical understandings to this issue. Strikingly, scant attention has focused on the victimization of women who want to leave their hostile partners. This groundbreaking work challenges the perception that rural communities are safe havens from the brutality of urban living. Identifying hidden crimes of economic blackmail and psychological mistreatment, and the complex relationship between patriarchy and abuse, Walter S. DeKeseredy and Martin D. Schwartz propose concrete and effective solutions, giving voice to women who have often suffered in silence.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This book deserves a special place among the panoply of new scholarship on rural crime. Innovative and multi-dimensional, *Dangerous Exits* sounds a powerful call for action and policy change." (from the foreword by Joseph F. Donnermeyer 2008-09-23)"*Dangerous Exits* is a critically important book that details the often invisible terror that many rural women face in their own homes. This book makes a valuable contribution to the field of Violence Against Women by addressing three areas we know far too little about—intimate partner sexual violence, the experiences of rural women, and separation/divorce violence. *Dangerous Exits* is destined to be a classic—it should be found on the bookshelves of all of us who study violence against women." (Raquel

Bergen author of *Wife Rape* 2009-01-21)"Bravo to DeKeseredy and Schwartz for addressing the important but neglected topic of abused women and rural culture. The authors offer compelling policy suggestions for effective prevention and increasing personal and collective efficacy." (Susan L. Miller University of Delaware 2009-02-04)"Dangerous Exits is a new qualitative study examining the physical, psychological, and sexual violence experienced by rural women in the process of leaving their intimate partners. The book consistently takes its cues from the voices of real rural women, and its grounding in the principles of participatory feminist research is nothing short of exemplary." (African American Review 2009-01-01)

Walter S. DeKeseredy is a professor of criminology, justice, and policy studies at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. He is the recipient of the Linda Saltzman Memorial Intimate Partner Violence Researcher Award from the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT).

Excellent book for any sociologist/criminologist interested in issues regarding rural violence against women. DeKeseredy and Schwartz do an excellent job explaining how leaving a violent relationship often presents the highest level of risk regarding lethality. Thus, a discourse aimed at "just leaving" is problematic and simplistic. The authors elaborate on various dynamics regarding exiting relationships that present some of the highest levels of risk for death. Rich, qualitative descriptions throughout the book provide excellent depth to understanding the dynamics involved with rural woman battering. This is different from Websdale's (1998) *Rural Women Battering and the Justice System: An Ethnography* (SAGE Series on Violence against Women) work on this topic because *Dangerous Exits* puts the focus primarily on leaving whereas Websdale focuses more on the patriarchal context of rural areas that contributes to violence against rural woman. Both books compliment each other quite well. The end of the book provides excellent policy proposals moving forward and although they are not fully elaborated it is not the intention of the book to propose full policy initiatives. They are merely starting points for forming legislation on these important issues. The best part of the book to me is where DeKeseredy and Schwartz discuss the role all men play in combating violence against women and they discuss the three typologies of men: violent men, well-meaning men, and pro-feminist men. The first two do nothing to end the ongoing domination, subordination, and violence towards women whereas pro-feminist men engage in agency aimed at challenging patriarchal practices and institutions.

Excellent guide on what *not* to do with your spouse

sad stories :(

This excellent addition to the literature on violence to women looks at the physical, mental and sexual violence rural women may face when exiting dangerous relationships, after they have left them, or even post-divorce. People are very fond of leveling judgments at women who don't "just leave" but this book is a timely reminder of the terrorism that serves to frighten women into remaining - and their fear of what may happen if they leave is, as this book shows, not groundless. I particularly appreciate the way DeKeseredy and Schwartz explore the danger of sexual assault when a woman "emotionally" separates from a partner - i.e. she does not have to even announce she is leaving; the man just senses she is growing distant and rapes her in order to reassert control and ownership. It is well past time to step up legal, financial and other services to protect rural women, and all women endangered by a bid for their right to freedom from a life of abuse. This book does propose steps that we may take to this end. Highly recommended - most certainly for professionals concerned with the safety of women escaping abuse.

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