

From The Author of Women of Courage

The purpose of my writing is to affect a change in the status of women living in America thereby improving their lives and the lives of their children. I introduced the subject of courage to cause women to look at themselves differently.



Women are more than their breast and buttock size. Women have poor self-images of themselves and this needs to change. They need to see the sacrifice made by millions of women years ago and the sacrifice made by millions of women today so they can appreciate themselves. Contrary to popular opinion, thousands of women have died trying to be free. Women raped and murdered on college campuses were trying to be free. Waitresses murdered after work were trying to be free. Women murdered walking to and from work were trying to be free. Women who divorced their husbands were trying to be free. Women working alone in convenience stores were trying to be free. Let no one tell you that women have not died trying to be free. Every day when women go to college, wait on tables, walk to and from work, or divorce their husbands they exhibit courage.***

History never describes women with respect to courage. We think about perfume, lipstick and

brassieres when we think about women. Women are inundated by brassiere ads. Newspapers and television still refer to women by their bra size. Newspapers and television have totally disregarded showing women working in the trenches of society. Newspapers, magazines and television continue to feed women a daily diet of beauty. When have you heard these mediums describe women with respect to reading, with respect to knowledge or courage? Never! Women are always described with respect to perfume, lipstick and brassieres. We never think that it takes courage for a woman to live. We never look at the amount of violence inflicted upon women every day and we never think about what courage it takes to face this violence day in and day out. If you want to know the courage it takes to be a woman read the stories of the Black women lynched in this country. It is not by accident that the news mediums of this country attempt to brain wash women day in and day out. It is all about money. These mediums did the same to the black slave. Malcolm X once said that some black slaves were so indoctrinated that when their master said he was sick the slave would say "we're sick." Women are constantly being told to enhance their breast or buttocks never their mind. Women do not appreciate they are the largest work force in the world and their bodies are being sold every day for 10 cents on the dollar. Women need to realize the only people who can bring about this change in the status of women are women. No one else can bring about this change other than the woman. Women must begin seeing themselves in a new light. Women are going to have to make up in their minds once and for all that they want to be free in mind and body. Women are going to have to make up in their minds that freedom is something that is taken not given. Women, especially American women, are also going to have to accept the fact that their daughters may not want to live the life their mothers lead and if American mothers refuse to stand up for their right to self-determination their daughters may find themselves on the battle field. Women do not want to be told

what to do any more. Women do not want to be told where to eat, what to wear, what car to drive what house to buy or how many children they must have. If men and the church continue in their efforts to return women to their 1940 status, women will find themselves with a gun in their hand. This country fought one war based on color let us not fight a war based on gender. Finally women are going to have to accept the creed one for all and all for one. We are the same whether you are a White woman from Georgia or a Black women living in Arizona. We are the same. Hate if you must but ignorance is a plague on us all. When Planned Parenthood is attacked it affects us all. Just as many poor White women will be without needed health care as Black women. We are one gender. You may want to believe that money and privilege differentiates you from me but the deciding factor in life is courage and self-determination. I wrote Women of Courage because I believe women must begin at home if a change is going to be seen everywhere. I wanted to acknowledge that the women of India are standing up against rape. Women of Saudi Arabia are standing up for the right to drive and the women of Africa are standing against genital mutilation. Sadly, Afghanistan women are still being forced to marry their rapist.

In my writing I chose various topics and related the topics to religion. I discuss religion in my writing because religion is truly a medium of **change**. Either one believes in God or he or she does not believe in God. For those people who believe in God, who say they are a Christian, my writings should cause them discomfort and cause them to reflect on their behavior toward others. For those individuals reading my book who do not believe in God, the gospel will be there for them to evaluate their conduct with respect to their sense of right and wrong.

Do not be apprehensive by my discussion of religion. I am neither a zealot nor a member of the America Taliban believing religious dogma should be forced down the throats of others; believing I am the only person who knows what is right. I am no such monster. I do not believe in bombing abortion clinics, shooting doctors, or standing on television telling people they are going to hell. I see religion as a tool. Religion is an excellent tool to use to change behavior. One read of The Devil's Cauldron and If You Believe In God You Don't Belong In Prison will demonstrate I have much more on my mind than religious conversion. I am not a do-gooder trying to save souls. I am a do-gooder trying to save the lives of thousands of women and children each year and to prevent the sexual exploitation of women and children.

I use religion in some of my books to explore ethics and social responsibility. I developed this style in 2004 when I started writing The Career Rapist. I was sitting at my desk asking myself, "Why such violence?" when I saw the problem. I saw there was a lack of morals and lack of empathy and social responsibility causing violence against women. I saw a lack of God. There were no social constraints exhibited by men. President Theodore Roosevelt Jr. said, "To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."

In this book I deliberately developed the subject of courage to lead into instances of violence against women and children. I could not complete a discussion regarding courage without discussing violence against women. There is a corollary between violence against women and children and economics. There is a corollary between violence against women and children and the abuse by church leadership. Church attendance by women is far greater than men, yet they rarely hold office in the churches. The churches are run by the pastor and the deacons. 'Have women help you build bigger and bigger churches while children starve.' Maybe the children can eat the manicured grass in front of the church. There is a corollary between violence against women and children and education and employment. And there most certainly is a corollary between violence against women and children and the lack of character and integrity in individuals that bring about this violence.

Most assuredly it is new, the mixture of religion and violence against women but what better pairing is there when discussing violence against women and children? For it is the church that

dictates the morality and the conduct of a country and since men are the perpetrators of violence and men hold the seat of power in every religion in the world it is fitting that the problem of violence against women and children be brought to the doorstep of the church since the church has ignored the abuse of women and children for centuries. There should be finality to the solving of a problem. Either we eradicate the measles or we do not. Either we eradicate violence against women and children or we do not. What will it be? The church needs to answer this question instead of preaching every Sunday about sinners going to hell.

My final point to women is they need to study economics. They really should begin to understand their relationship to the country's economy. America is the richest country in the world yet we have millions and millions of women and children living in poverty in every state of the union. This should not be. Poverty and the lack of education is blight on this nation. Class, poverty and the lack of an education are factors that are excluding people from the job market. How can our GNP be 14,074,200,000 and we have 5 million men either in prison or associated with the criminal system on parole, probation, etc., and we have millions of women and children living in poverty. The men in prison and the women and children living in poverty are not enjoying this gross national product. Our prisons have become holding structures for men (both young and old) that the country believes it no longer needs. If you cannot read or write, what good are you so we shall put you in prison? Since you are among the excess children being born in this country to indigent mothers and absent father we are going to put you in prison. You do not have any money so sooner or later either you are going to steal or kill and then we shall put you in prison. This type of disparity is what fosters counter cultures.

When a man is refused employment he does not go home and blow his brains out he creates a system of economics based on stolen cars, the selling of drugs, and other illegal activities. Imagine what the GNP is for the average dope dealer or the man who peddles flesh. Every country in the world has got on the band wagon of selling drugs and women and children in America. Come to America and sell your drugs. Come to America and prostitute your women. Riches await you. So when a man is refused employment he begins selling women and children, or rapes them.

The gross domestic product (GDP) or gross domestic income (GDI) is the measures of national income and output for a given country's economy. GDP is defined as the total market value of all final goods and services produced within the country in a given period of time (usually a calendar year). It is also considered the sum of value added at every stage of production (the intermediate stages) of all final goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time, and it is given a money value (source Wikipedia).

Women are told everyday through television and magazines the only way out of poverty is through sex and the use of her body. Herein lays the trap. The way out of poverty is not the use of one's body; the way out of poverty is education and the abstinence of sex. Television and magazines make their money selling sex. What good would television and magazines be to advertisers if they told women to read, read and read? There would be a translation of power and who wants that not the men who are running this country. The church and thousands of businessmen make millions of dollars by keeping women ignorant and desperate.

Women face violence every day. Women face sexual violence, economic violence and physical violence every day and no one discusses the courage it takes for women to face this violence and continue to try and live as person. Think of the courage it takes for a woman to board a bus early in the morning before dawn just to get to work. Do not think she is not scared. Think of the courage it takes for a woman to walk home around 10 pm after working a full day at a fast food restaurant. Do not think she is not scared as she walks home. Everyone working at McDonald's cannot afford a car. Question, do you know of the number of women murdered each year while trying to get to work?

Murder at Work

Alma Steinigeweg, 18, was murdered November 3, 1904 in Cincinnati, Ohio while waiting for a street car on her way to work. She worked as a telephone operator.

Diane Maxwell Jackson, 25, was raped and stabbed to death December 14, 1969 after **arriving to work** at Southwestern Bell in Houston, Texas. She worked as a telephone operator. She was accosted after she parked her car. Her assailant was convicted November 24, 2003. Every state in the union had a rash of murders committed to telephone operators.

Mrs. Teresa Beiser, 36, a mother of two, was killed at work November 11, 2009, in Portland, Oregon by her estranged husband. She had recently filed for a divorce. Her husband killed himself. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2001, approximately 31% of workplace fatalities of women were caused by interpersonal assaults. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) system data for calendar year 2003, homicides were the second leading cause of death of the job for women, and 15% of the 119 workplace homicides of women in that year were attributed to a current or former husband or boyfriend. Between 1993 and 1999, an intimate was responsible for 45% of homicides of women age 20-24 and almost 40% of homicides of women age 35-49. 30% of women murdered in the United States in 1999 were murdered by a husband, former husband or boyfriend. 31,260 women were murdered by an intimate from 1976-1996. Bureau of Justice Statistics

Carlene Pierre, a mother of 3, and her coworker, Vanessa Gonzalez-Orellanes, both 28, was shot to death September 27, 2012 **at work** at the Quality Suites Universal Central, in Orlando, Florida. Ms. Pierre worked as a manager. The murders happened less than a day after Ms. Pierre's ex-boyfriend was served with an injunction that ordered him to stay away from Carlene Pierre. After the shootings, her ex-boyfriend drove several miles to Westgate Lakes Resort and Spa, where he shot and wounded Pierre's friend, 31-year-old Jean Guerline. Two women lay dead because a man could not walk away. Later he killed himself. Carlene Pierre, Vanessa Gonzalez-Orellanes and Jean Guerline were best friends. Ms. Guerline survived. Ms. Pierre aspired to be a nurse she was close to graduating. Her ex-boyfriend had numerous battery and domestic violence cases since 2001, involving two other women. Jean Guerline, "If we don't want to be with someone, they don't have a right to **murder** us. That's not fair." Michelle Desruisseaux – sister, "It wasn't until Pierre was pregnant with his child two years ago when we started to witness the violence." "The police are like, you have a restraining order, you've already done everything you're supposed to do. "Eventually he'll leave you alone. Really? Did he? No. He didn't. Because she's dead now. "My sister did everything to protect herself, but that wasn't enough" "We had faith in the system. We were like the system will protect the woman, because that's what they always say."

Jazmine Trotter (identical Twin), 19, of Cleveland, Ohio was raped and murdered March 22, 2013. Jazmine left **walking to work** at 4 am, in the morning. She never arrived. Her body was found by family members behind an abandoned home. Her murder remains unsolved. Where was your son or husband the morning of March 22, 2013? The Cleveland Division of Police is asking that anyone with information in connection with this incident to contact the Homicide Unit at 216-623-5464

Kaitlin Gerber, 20, was shot to death March 24, 2013 **while driving to work** in Toledo, Ohio. Her ex-boyfriend later committed suicide. He was released from the court February 27, 2013 after pleading guilty to one count of violating a protective order. There was a pre-sentence report scheduled for April 1. Apparently, the court did not take the threatening behavior of her ex-boyfriend seriously. If he had been convicted of a greater charge and or sentenced the day of his conviction Ms. Gerber

would be alive today. The courts do not seem to take stalking seriously. Her friends called her ex-boyfriend a monster. He was a miserable human being.

Mrs. Melinda Schaefer, 29, was stabbed multiple times June 14, 2013 in the leasing office **where she worked** as a Property Manager in Reisterstown, Maryland. Her body was found around 11 a.m. by a custodian. She was recently married. August 21, 2013 27-year-old Rashaan Williams was charged with first degree murder. Mr. Williams was a maintenance worker at the Townes at Harvest View apartment complex. He met with the victim shortly before she was murdered.

Velacita Jones, 39, a mother of three, was shot to death July 8, 2013 outside the Hardee's restaurant in Hopewell, Virginia **where she worked** as a manger. Another Hardee's employee was shot after coming to her aid. She was a native of Prince George. Her ex-boyfriend came to the restaurant and began to argue. Ms. Jones went outside to try and calm the argument where she was shot. The U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force picked up Joseph Lemue Green, 62, of Prince George County that afternoon. Mr. Green is charged with first degree murder and attempted murder.

Mrs. Andrea L. Kruger, a 33-year-old mother of three, was shot to death August 22, 2013 in Omaha, Nebraska while **on her way home from work**. Andrea Kruger was found along the road shot to death just after 2 a.m. She worked as a bartender. She left work alone. She lived about two miles from where her body was found. Her SUV was found abandoned in an alley. Carjacking's are a federal offense punishable by death. Her murder has not been solved. Where was your husband, your son, your father, your brother or your boyfriend at 2'o'clock the morning of August 22, 2013? Was he home?

Mariah Anderson, 22, a mother of 3, was shot to death inside her vehicle in Union Township, Pennsylvania November 18, 2013. Several shots were fired into the vehicle at about 11:15 p.m. She had **just gotten off from work** and was driving away when she was shot. She was escorted to her car by a coworker. There was a protection from abuse order in effect against her ex-boyfriend. Her boyfriend was banned from entering the property where she worked. He did not care. The police had taken the ex-boyfriend away from the store a couple of times before the shooting. Her sister said, "Every day, he'll be at her job, sitting out, waiting for her to get off so he could follow her. Every day, she would have to call the police." "It got to the point where he was hiding in her trunk of her car and just following her around from work and having people go to her job, watching her.

Maria Gonzalez, a mother, was murdered November 28, 2013, Thanksgiving Day in Jefferson Park, Illinois. She was on **her way to work**. She was attacked just as she was getting in her car. Ms. Gonzalez was pronounced dead on the scene at 5:22 a.m. She was stabbed 11times her throat was cut and her purse was stolen. She was nearly decapitated. Maria Gonzalez worked at a nearby Dunkin Donuts and was headed to work when she was killed. She left around the same time every day. Ms. Gonzalez moved to the block about a month ago. December 12, 2013 Alberto Gaytan, 42, her ex-boyfriend was arrested and charged with murder. A plea bargain will be made for manslaughter and he will be off to prison for a few years then paroled. Plea bargains save the state money. It is not like Mr. Gaytan killed someone important. Maria Gonzalez was just a woman.

When lust has satisfied itself death follows

Women are much more likely to be targeted when workplace shootings involve co-workers or other individuals who know the victim.

Relatives and personal acquaintances are responsible for only 4 percent of workplace homicides of men, but represent 28 percent of women's murders in the workplace.

80 percent of workplace killings involve a gun.

Retail stores have about 24 percent of fatal shootings, followed by hotels, which represent 17 percent of fatal attacks

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) workplace fatalities data

Women need to understand the use and abuse of their bodies is tied to the economy. Just like the use and abuse of the Black man's body was tied to the economy. There are more than 25 million children in this country that have lived in homes without their fathers. Many of these children are the result of the advertising frenzy directing women toward sex and using their bodies to either seek husbands or to make a living. The absences of fathers in the home have devastated this nation. Women are living without the necessary mental and physical support of a husband and children are living without the necessary mental and physical support of a father. We now have a under culture that negates fatherhood and advocates men living alone calling women to their apartment only for sex. Just like the words television and submarine were introduced to our society and became popular we now have two vulgar phrases, booty call and my baby's daddy, becoming popular; so popular that one hears booty call and my baby's daddy being used on television nightly. These phrases are used in jokes all across America. How can the phrase my baby's daddy be funny?

In closing, my true wish once you have read this book is that you will look at yourself and other women differently. You have no idea of the personal battles a woman is fighting especially those trying to take care of their children. I want you to truly understand the courage it takes to be a woman.

To leave one's husband with five children in tow is truly an act of courage.

P.S. For the second time since I began this project a man told me women would not read my books. He said women will feel they have something better to do than to read a 500 page book. Let us see if he is right. God Bless.