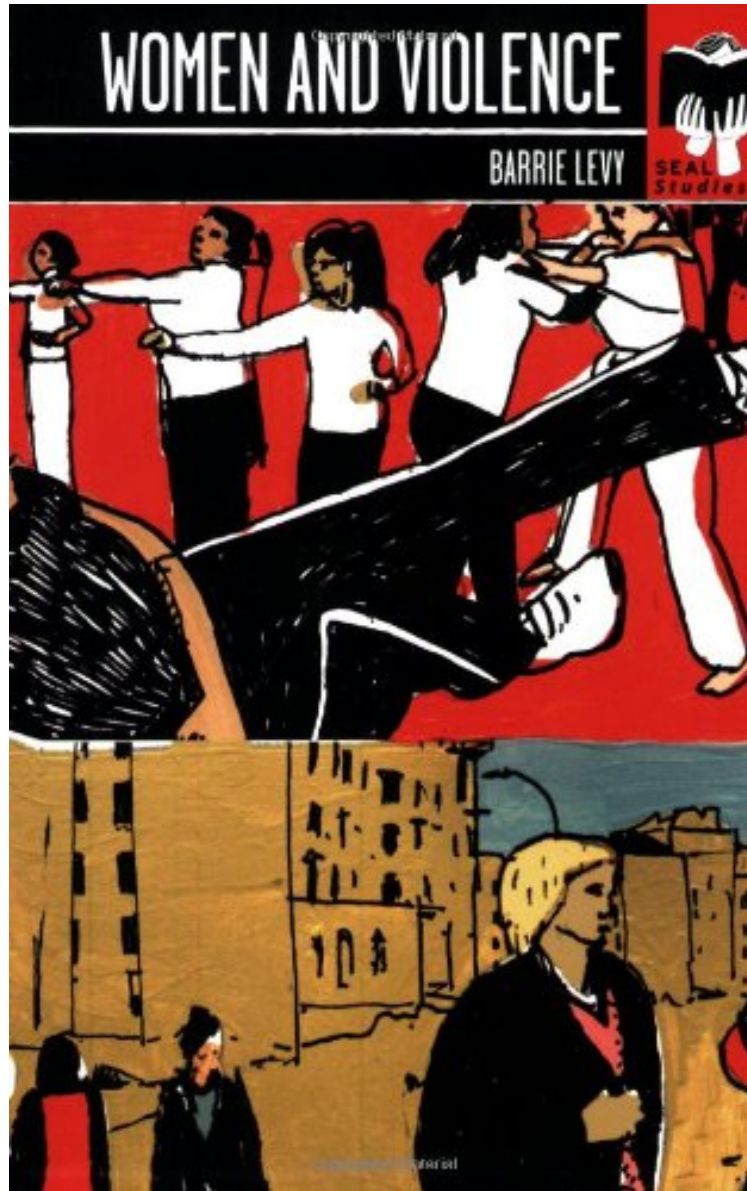


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Women and Violence: Seal Studies

Barrie Levy

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Barrie Levy : Women and Violence: Seal Studies before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women and Violence: Seal Studies:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Violence Against Women and the Movement to Stop it By ginicar WOMEN and VIOLENCE by BARRIE LEVY Ginny NiCarthy Women and Violence is a slim, easy to read volume that begins with an overview of the many ways women suffer from violence perpetrated largely because they

are born female. The author even-handedly considers the reasons for researchers' and activists' varying beliefs about what causes so many women to be victims of violence, and so many men to be perpetrators. Her own perspective is inclusive: Multidimensional explanations of violence against women integrate social factors, such as class, gender and culture, with individual characteristics, such as family history, psychopathology, and alcohol or drug use. Reluctance of institutions to intervene, cultural approval of violence, and social constructions of 'masculinity' contribute additional dimensions. These theories view violence against women as complex, with individual and social factors combining to cause and perpetuate the problem. After the introductory chapter, Levy discusses how the basic issues play out globally. She describes the individual and societal consequences of the abuse and the major movement controversies. Those topics set the stage for the final chapter on how individuals and institutions are continuing the work of ensuring that women's rights are upheld through numerous kinds of activism. In 1993 the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women defined violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty whether occurring in public or private life." Levy emphasizes the importance of the Declaration "because it focuses on the responsibility of the state to address the human rights of women, and it recognizes violence against women as gender-based and both public and private." Many people, including advocates for abused women, know little about women's Human Rights struggles throughout U.S. history and even less about the international movement. So it is heartening that the global movement has a chapter of its own. U.S. movement history is woven into the entire text. The chapter on controversies within the movement illustrates that the movement is continually evolving in theory and practice. That the author has been able to address each of these topics in one short volume is remarkable. Levy brushes lightly over each of the topics, but that is inevitable in such a short handbook. A Sources section provides plenty of ideas for the reader who wants more information. My only complaint is that the section on Sources is not organized in a reader friendly way. Most publications about violations of women's Human Rights focus narrowly on one aspect of a topic, such as domestic violence, rape, genital cutting or human trafficking in a particular country or sociological group. In such an approach it is easy to lose sight of the complex ways in which each act or pattern of abuse intersects in complex ways with the background of the victim-survivor. A victimized woman may be part of a marginalized group such as an immigrant or sexual or racial minority community. She may live or work in a traditionally male setting such as the military or in the trades. Any of those situations may have an idiosyncratic affect on her response to each type of abuse she suffers. The author succeeds admirably in emphasizing these "multiple dimensions that interact with one another to make violence so common in women's lives...and so difficult to eradicate." Levy's compassion for individual women is evident throughout the book, and exemplified especially in the short stories of particular women. But she also illustrates how institutional policies and actions either further violence against women or support movements to stop it. Their actions have broad consequences for society at large. This is a terrific book for a reader who wants to understand the most important aspects of violence against women and the movement to stop it. At the very least she or he will gain an appreciation of women's situations and will be better able to evaluate the ramifications of violence to women. The final chapter on activism covers a great deal of ground, and once a reader is familiar with the basics about violence against women, she or he may even decide to become part of the movement. In this book Barrie Levy covers an amazing amount of territory and opens the door for further explorations of many topics.

When women decide what to wear, where to go, how to get there, what time of day to be outdoors, and what affects their sense of security and safety, are they aware that they're afraid of being sexually assaulted? Violence against women is, on a global scale, so common that some experts consider it a normal aspect of women's experiences and yet research on the issue is subjective and inconsistent. *Women and Violence* is a comprehensive look at the issue of violence against women and its many appearances, causes, costs and consequences. Understanding that personal values, beliefs and environment affect an individual's response to and acknowledgement of violence against women, this book addresses topics such as global perspectives on violence, controversies and debates, and social change strategies and activism.