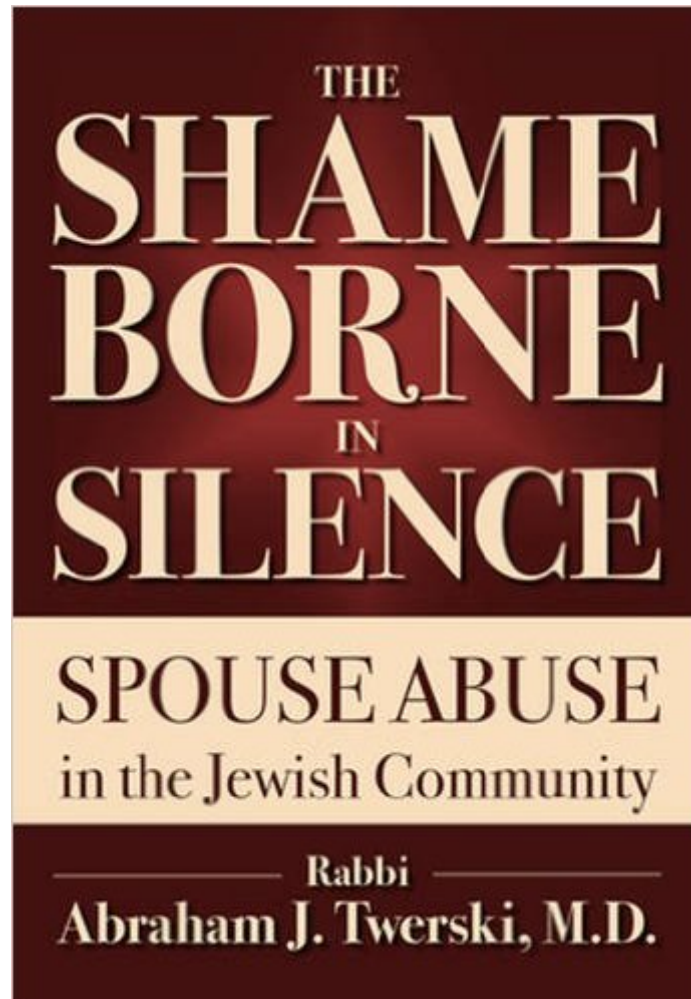


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The Shame Borne In Silence: Spouse Abuse In The Jewish Community



Synopsis

Providing a religious lens on the topic, this book directly addresses the problem of spousal abuse in the Jewish community, in hopes of confronting the truth and taking definitive steps to end this violation of all that Judaism stands for. A leading rabbi and psychiatrist reveals with striking candor, firmness, and compassion what may have been closely kept dark secrets in many Jewish families and offers urgently needed advice and direction. Rabbi Twerski's book was one of the first titles to break open the issue, and this new edition relates the recognition of abuse, the warning signs, and how to respond.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #940,775 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #131 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Women & Judaism #321 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Abuse > Partner Abuse #2562 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Counseling

Customer Reviews

While many Jews and non-Jews are convinced that Jewish husbands do not mistreat their wives and are ideal husbands with non-Jewish mothers suggesting to their daughters to marry a Jewish man, this is not entirely true. As Rabbi Dr. Twerski, a psychiatrist, highlights, there is spouse abuse among Jewish husbands, even by men who are very observant of their religion and by men from and in respectable families. Twerski describes the many spouse abuses he encountered and offers his reason for the abuse and the ever-revolving three-part cyclical theory of violence, tension, battering, and honeymoon phases. He explains why "You will not change a frog into a prince, nor will you change an abuser into a non-abuser," the warning behavioral signs of a person who will become an abuser, why wives do not leave their abusive husbands, what the Torah says about this problem, what happens when alcohol is involved, the agunah issue, counseling, therapy, and much

more. The case histories he describes are tragic, but it is interesting to read how men and women react in these terrible situations. Most but not all abuses are committed by husbands, but there are also abuses done by wives. "One of the goals of this book," Twerski writes, "is to increase awareness of domestic abuse, so that more professional counselors and rabbis will take seriously the complaints of a woman whose husband is respected and esteemed, and not dismiss it as fantasy." My first thought as I began to read this book was that the author would reveal that men abuse women generally and wives in particular because since time immemorial men have considered women as inferior beings, or as one philosopher put it: creatures between animals and men.

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