

FRANK G. BOLTON, JR.

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MALES AT RISK

**The Other Side of
Child Sexual
Abuse**

书馆

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Frank G. Bolton, Jr.
Larry A. Morris
Ann E. MacEachron



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Contents

1 Of Sexual Abuse and Other Things in the Night:	
Direction and Misdirection	9
Growing Up Male: Easier Said Than Done	11
Male Sexual Development: Myth and Mystery	12
Sex Roles	14
Differential Socialization	15
The Abuse of Sexuality Model: Preliminary Assumptions	17
The Abuse of Sexuality Model: Environmental Characteristics	19
The Ideal Environment	19
The Predominantly Nurturing Environment	20
The Evasive Environment	20
The Environmental	22
The Permissive Environment	23
The Negative Environment	24
The Seductive Environment	25
The Overtly Sexual Environment	27
Sexual Abuse Yesterday and Today: The Legacy of Too Little	
Too Late	30
Definitional Shortcomings	31
The Knowledge Base: An Historical Review	35
General Incidence and Prevalence Rates	35
2 Male Child Sexual Abuse: Prevalence and Perpetrators	39
Male and Female Child Sexual Victimization: Similarities and Differences	42
The Perpetrator in the Sexual Abuse of Children	46
Etiological Quandaries	46
The Father Offender	48

The Female Offender	52
The Juvenile Offender	57
The Sibling Offender	58
The Pedophile	59
3 Whatever Happened to Baby John? The Aftermath	58
The Consequences of Child Sexual Abuse	68
The Impact upon the Male Victim	73
Emotional Distress	75
Behavior Problems	77
Sexual Problems	79
Cyclical Victimization	81
Sexual Orientation Conflicts	85
Prostitution	87
Coping Patterns	88
4 Building a New Life: The Paths to Recovery	94
Structuring the Therapy	95
Victim or Survivor?	95
Diagnosis	95
The Therapist	97
The Therapeutic Setting	98
Individual or Group Therapy	99
The Path to Recovery for Adult Males	100
Breaking the Silence	101
Accepting the Experience	103
Separating the Abuse from the Abused	104
No Thanks for the Memories	104
Real Men Don't Have Feelings	105
Mourning Lost Childhood	106
Self-Image	108
Relationships, Then and Now	110
Confusion About Sexuality	112
From Victim to Victimizer?	115
Confronting the Abuser	116
The Path to Recovery for Male Children	123
Beliefs and Attitudes	128
Affective Responses	130
Behavioral Responses	132

5	Beyond the Path to Recovery: The Need for a Systematic Multi-Remedial Approach	134
	Multi-Remedial Techniques	137
	Personal Victimization Issues	137
	Techniques for Treating Interpersonal Dysfunctions	139
	Techniques for Treating Sexual Dysfunctions	150
	Techniques for Reducing Deviant Sexual Responses	153
6	Formulating the Treatment Plan: A Systematic Multi-Remedial Evaluation Approach	166
	Multi-Remedial Evaluation of the Adult Male	167
	Assessment of Personal Victimization Issues	168
	Assessment of Personal and Family History	169
	Multidimensional Assessment of Personality Characteristics and Emotional Dysfunctions	170
	Assessment of Anxiety, Anger, and Depression	172
	Assessment of Interpersonal Dysfunctions	173
	Assessment of Sexual Dysfunctions	175
	Assessment of Deviant Sexual Responses	177
	Multi-Remedial Evaluation of Male Children	181
	Assessment of Personal Victimization Issues	185
	Assessment of Personal and Family History	185
	Assessment of Personality Characteristics	186
	Assessment of Emotional and Interpersonal Dysfunctions	186
	Assessment of Sexual Dysfunctions	187
	Assessment of Deviant Sexual Responses	188
	The Process: A Guide for the Clinician	188
	Step One: Identify the Abuse of Sexuality Environment	189
	Step Two: Evaluate the Impact	191
	Step Three: Develop and Implement Treatment Plan	192
	Step Four: Evaluate Progress	194
	Step Five: Termination	195
	Step Six: Follow-Up	196
	Clinical Issues Within the Use of This Model:	
	Today and Tomorrow	196
	References	198
	About the Authors	221

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*To those who struggle to overcome
the effects of abuse of sexuality
childhood experiences*

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	Step Two: Evaluate the Impact	191
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	Today and Tomorrow	196
	References	198
	About the Authors	221

1

Of Sexual Abuse and Other Things in the Night

Direction and Misdirection

It happens. Male children and adolescents are sexually abused, sexually misused, and involved with adults, peers, and siblings in ways that inhibit the development of normal sexuality. Less than a decade ago, child sexual abuse researcher and clinician Susanne Sgroi (1975) admonished clinicians in the following manner:

... recognition of sexual molestation in a child is dependent upon the individual's inherent willingness to entertain the possibility that the condition may exist. (pp. 18-21)

This book does not attempt to describe a problem of epidemic proportion. For the clinician, the possibility of a single case demands preparation. This book does not suggest that males are at equal risk to females. That does not seem reasonable given available data. This book does suggest that clinicians may sometimes overlook two critical elements in serving the population of children and adolescents at risk from sexual victimization. First, it is *children* who are at risk, not only female children. Second, our present focus upon sexual abuse, one which assumes some physical contact, may have diverted attention from the equally or more damaging effects of more subtle sexual interactions. These covert interactions between adult and child which inhibit the development of sexuality must be factored into our litany of sexual victimizations directed toward children. We have described this broader sexual victimiza-

tion as the *abuse of sexuality*. This inhibitor to normal development serves as a foundation here and will be described later. Finally, there are no more eloquent descriptors of clinical problems than the words of the patients who have lived them. Several of our patients have given permission to use these descriptions as case studies. The words are rough and sometimes difficult to read, but they are real. Consider the following report from a fourteen-year-old boy regarding the range of sexual victimizations he experienced with his mother, her boyfriend, and his younger sister:

It seemed like my mom and stepfather were always fighting about something. They would scream and yell and sometimes really hit each other hard. One night they were both drinking and started to argue about something stupid, I'm not sure what it was, even. One thing led to another and pretty soon they were really at it. They smacked each other around and broke a lot of stuff in the house. Then I heard my stepfather say he was leaving and I never saw him again.

A few months after that mom started coming into the bathroom when I was taking a bath. At first she said she just wanted to get something from the medicine cabinet, but I noticed her looking at me. Later she asked me if I wanted my back washed like she did when I was younger. I was embarrassed but let her do it a couple of times then it seemed like one thing led to another until she wanted to wash me all over. It felt good but I was scared. When she started dating she didn't come into the bathroom as often and she stopped asking to wash my back so I figured that it was all over. But one night she woke me up and asked me to sleep with her because she heard some noises outside and was afraid. I was so sleepy, I hardly knew what was going on, but I went to her bedroom and went to sleep. In the morning, I woke up with an erection and mom was sort of up against me with her hand on my stomach. I didn't want her to know I had an erection, so I started to move away from her to get out of bed, but she was awake already and she pulled me back. She wanted to know if something was wrong and I told her I had to go to the bathroom. She didn't let go and moved her hand down over my undershorts and I could feel her hand on my penis. She started moving her hand back and forth slowly. One thing led to another, I guess, and pretty soon she was kissing me on the lips, rubbing me more, and then she put my hand between her legs over her nightgown and moved it up and down. I was afraid but also was getting turned on. We rubbed each other like that until I came. I don't know if she came or not but we stopped then. Afterwards I felt real bad. This was my mother and you aren't supposed to do things

like that with your mother. She never said anything so I figured it wouldn't happen again.

I was wrong. Things got worse. She started coming into my bedroom once or twice a week asking me to sleep with her and eventually we went all the way. I never told anybody because I was ashamed.

Then mom came home with a man late one night and woke me and my sister up saying she wanted to show us something. Mom and the guy were really loaded and I didn't know what was going on. They took us to the living room and they took their clothes off and started making love, telling us to watch. They then told me to make love to my sister, but I told them I wouldn't do it. So mom said, "Okay, then you can make love to me." I tried to stop what was going on but thought that if I did what they wanted, they would leave my sister alone. It worked. After awhile mom and this guy passed out on the floor and me and my sister went back to bed. That night, my sister told me she knew what had been going on with mom because she saw us a couple of times.

It wasn't long after that night that mom would bring this guy home and show us pornographic movies on the VCR and insist that me and my sister make love. They would get us drunk and we eventually did what they wanted. Pretty soon we were having regular orgies. We would all get drunk and I would have sex with mom while this guy and my sister watched. Then mom and I would watch this guy screw my sister. Sometimes the guy would suck me while mom and my sister watched, but I didn't really want him to do that to me. I never did it to him. I did do it to my sister while they watched. It was crazy. I'm glad my sister finally told someone and put a stop to it.

Growing Up Male: Easier Said Than Done

A male patient who was not sexually abused once reported to one of the authors, "Living through the development of male sexuality for me was like hitchhiking. It is more fun to talk about than it was to live through it." That may be one of the major difficulties of "growing up male." Everyone talks about it as though it were easy. Few males are willing to admit to the difficulties.

Male children are "typecast" to be dominant, competitive, aggressive, and "tough." To be a "normal" male is to aspire to leadership. The burdens inherent in these expectations are obvious. To be "normal" sexually as a male is to be active, knowledgeable, potent, and a successful seducer. The foundation seems to be an elusive