



STRATEGIES FOR CONFRONTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A RESOURCE MANUAL

The International Bill of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights enumerate basic human rights as well as establish general rights for victims of domestic violence. Women's inherent rights and protection from this kind of violence are also provided by such instruments like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice For Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power.

This manual was prepared in line with the UN General Assembly's resolution (45/114) urging Member-States to develop and implement policies, measures and strategies within and outside the criminal justice system to respond to the problem of domestic violence. Specifically, this manual provides a range of options and strategies that are being used to tackle domestic violence in different parts of the world. There are also information about actions being done by the police, by prosecutors, by health service workers, by social service workers, by women's groups and government agencies to respond to the problem of domestic violence. (New York: United Nations, 1993, 1995. 122p. ISBN 92-1-130-158-0)

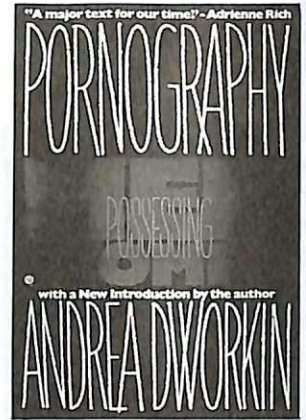
The Evil That Men Do

by Pi Villanueva

When I was 15, I wanted so much to be "one of the boys." Boys, I thought, did fun things; girls stayed home and made doilies. And I thought I was smart. It was while hanging around with the boys that I got my introduction to hard-core pornography. I remember, it was one of those high school party over at a classmate's house. At close to midnight, the boys started disappearing into the house den, leaving us girls to gossip in the living room. But being an honorary boy, I was soon let in on the "secret" and told that I can join the rest of them big boys if I wanted to. The big mystery turned out to be a porn movie called *Deep Throat* starring Linda Lovelace, who the boys told me was porn superstar of the moment.

I was out of that room in a flash. "This is sick," I remember telling one of the boys before walking out.

Fast forward to 1997. I just read Andrea Dworkin's *Pornography: Men Possessing Women*, and I'm still reeling from the experience. Someone asked me how it was. I don't know, I said. Well-argued treatises are not supposed to hit you in the gut, only in the head. It's not just Dworkin, but other feminist writers as well who are able to combine meticulous research, clear thinking and solid prose who can make your world seem like it's been turned upside down. In *Pornography*, Dworkin dove deep into this most terrible of crime against women, to surface with a lucid examination of the real source of pornography – the power system that creates and perpetuates the systematic rape of women, and the culture that makes people inured to this violation. I emerged from *Pornography* with a



clearer understanding of a subject which, almost 20 years since Dworkin's book rolled out of the presses, continues to fire up and sometimes divide the women's movement.

Dworkin's *Pornography* was first published in 1979, the same year I saw that grimy betamax in a dark den. Linda Lovelace, a.k.a. Linda Marchiano, also figures in Dworkin's book. Marchiano and other women who survived pornography made me see where that retching, sickening feeling came from. "Every time someone watches that film, they are watching me being raped," Marchiano said. Another woman intoned, "They knew a child's face when they looked into it. It was clear that I was not acting of my free will. I was always covered with bruises...It was even clearer that I was sexually inexperienced. I literally didn't know what to do. So they showed me pornography to teach me about sex and then they would ignore my tears as they positioned my body like the women in the pictures and used me."

I have long stopped wanting to be one of the boys. Boys don't always do fun things. As Dworkin made it plain in her book, boys also do evil, nasty things to girls.