

Rape Is Rape: How Denial, Distortion, and Victim Blaming Are Fueling a Hidden Acquaintance Rape Crisis

By Jody Raphael JD

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More than 80 percent of rapes in the United States are committed by someone the victim knows-colleagues, dates, friends, or family members. But the clichéd image of a violent stranger lurking in an alley has so distorted the media and the public's view of rape that many no longer recognize the majority of rape cases as "real" but rather as mere alcohol-fueled miscommunications. Rape Is Rape reveals how the tactics used by rape deniers-who, shockingly, include both conservatives and some self-styled feminists-endanger the rights of women, condone the behavior of serial rapists, and adversely affect victims and judicial outcomes. Through emotionally charged interviews with victims; a thorough analysis of current rape research, government statistics, and medical and judicial records; and examination of a number of recent high-profile cases, author Jody Raphael reveals how widespread victim blaming and distortion of the facts are being used to further political agendas. She outlines prescriptive measures universities, hospitals, and police can take not only to end indifference and prejudicial attitudes within their own ranks but also to fairly and effectively aid and empower victims of rape. A balanced yet poignant discussion of an issue that's been maligned and misunderstood for too long, Rape Is Rape is a call to action to protect the human rights of women and girls and end the acquaintance rape crisis. Jody Raphael, JD, is an attorney and a senior research fellow at the Family Law Center at DePaul University College of Law. She is the author of a popular trilogy of books on women, poverty, and violence.

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Editorial Review

Review
"[A] meticulously researched and passionately argued rebuttal of those who would deny the reality and alarming prevalence of acquaintance rape." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"A compelling, grim account of the struggle for victims of sexual violence to be heard and believed." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Must reading for anyone wishing to understand how something as abhorrent as rape can ever be denied." —*Military Review*

"[Raphael's] eye-opening exposé shows how Americans, including some high profile feminists, ignore or underestimate the devastating nature of this form of assault." —*Ms.*

"[A] very important read about rape culture, rape deniers and recent rape cases. A must-read for all." —*Entertainment Realm*, blog

"This book would be timely no matter when it was published." —*Colorado Springs Independent*

"This book shocked, provoked, educated and is certainly one of the most profound and important books I have read this year." —*Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dave*

"What makes all of Raphael's books special is that she focuses each one on one individual, but includes the research findings about the topics covered, letting readers know how typical her cases are, and what social scientists know about the entire subject discussed." —*Sexual Assault Report* (for *Listening to Olivia: Violence, Poverty, and Prostitution*)

“A powerful account of the ways in which rape deniers reject the impact of and commonality of acquaintance rape.” —Metapsychology Online Reviews

About the Author

Jody Raphael, JD, is an attorney and a nationally known researcher, lecturer, and advocate on issues of violence against women. She is the author of *Freeing Tammy: Women, Drugs, and Incarceration*; *Listening to Olivia: Violence, Poverty, and Prostitution*; and *Saving Bernice: Battered Women, Welfare, and Poverty*.

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