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## **Why domestic violence victims don't leave**

[listening comprehension questions]

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Check these words before listening:

### **Key vocabulary**

1. Disturbing question
2. To tackle a question
3. A psychiatrist
4. A loaded gun / bullets
5. Psychological trap
6. Disguised
7. An abuser
8. To be chatted up
9. An illusion
10. A stepfather
11. To seduce and charm someone
12. To quit a job
13. A dysfunctional family
14. Crazy love
15. Trauma
16. To be physically attacked
17. Bruises
18. An isolated incident
19. A honeymoon
20. Stalking
21. A battered wife
22. Incredibly dangerous
23. In denial
24. Sadistic beating
25. To rebuild a life
26. Fascinating
27. To shine a spotlight on something
28. Intervene / deescalate something

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## **Why domestic violence victims don't leave**

TED TALK: Leslie Morgan Steiner [Nov 2012. 15:59]

### *Explain what you understand*

1. What is the topic and what is the exact question is she tackling?
2. What is her definition of 'crazy love'?
3. Why does she start her lecture with a description of her background?
4. What is the percentage of abusers, relationship type, the typical victim and ratio?
5. How did she meet her abuser (Conor) and what made an impression in her?
6. How did Conor make her feel like the dominant partner in the relationship?
7. What was possibly the first warning sign that Conor may be violent?
8. What are the 4 steps to domestic violence?
9. How did Conor isolate her?

10. What was the first attack and why? Was he sorry and what was his reason?

11. Why did she stay?

12. Why doesn't she just leave?

13. How did she leave?

14. How are victims stereotyped and why?

15. Overall conclusion?

*Critical evaluation? Is the statistic of 1:3 people are domestically abused realistic? Do you think that people (especially men) who are physically abused when they are young, are more likely to abuse women? In her talk, do you think it was a carefully laid plan to move her to a small town in New England? She said he bought 3 guns as a message to her - do you agree with this statement? Do you think her reasons for staying with an abuser are justified? Do you think every woman has her strength? Do you think she offers a good solution? What about the abuser? Surely, they need help?*

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## **Domestic Violence** **ANSWERS**

**1. What is the topic and what is the exact question is she tackling?**

The secrets of domestic violence / why would anyone stay with a man who beats her?

**2. What is her definition of 'crazy love'?**

A psychological trap disguised as love

**3. Why does she start her lecture with a description of her background?**

She explains she has a Harvard BA, MBA, working for Fortune 500 company, married for 20 years, kids, black lab & Honda Odyssey - To emphasise the point that domestic violence happens to everyone, all races, religions, income levels, educational levels. It's everywhere.

**4. What is the percentage of abusers, relationship type, the typical victim and ratio?**

85% abusers are men, intimate interdependent, long term relationships (families), typical victim is aged 16-24, 500 women and girls are killed by abusive partners, boyfriends and husbands in the US. 1:3 people in the US are abused.

A typical victim has no idea about D.V. it's warning signs or patterns.

**5. How did she meet her abuser and what made an impression on her?**

Met on NY subway - 2 things: he had just graduated from Ivy League school and he worked for an impressive Wall Street bank. Biggest impression was that he was smart and funny.

**6. How did Conor make her feel like the dominant partner in the relationship?**

By idolising her - he believed in her. No hint of anger or control

**7. What was possibly the first warning sign that Conor may be violent?**

He confessed a secret that he had been savagely and repeatedly physically abused by his stepfather.

**8. What are the 4 steps to domestic violence?**

i) Create an illusion that the victim is the dominant partner. ii) Start to isolate the victim. Iii) Introduce the threat of violence and see how she reacts. iv) murder

**9. How did Conor isolate her?**

Moved to a tiny town in New England away from friends and family to create a physical, financial, psychological trap.

**10. What was the first attack and why? Was he sorry and what was his reason?**

She got frustrated about a writing assignment and he tried to strangle her and then hit her head against the wall repeatedly. He was very, very sorry - he was stressed about the wedding. It was an isolated incident and he'd never hurt her again.

### **11. Why did she stay?**

She didn't realise he was abusing her - she was in love with a deeply troubled man and she was the only person who could help him.

### **12. Why doesn't she just leave?**

Many people don't understand because you are not a victim but it's incredibly dangerous to leave an abuser - the last step in the pattern is murder. Over 70% of d.v murders happen after the victim has ended the relationship. Why? Because the abuser has nothing left to lose.

Other outcomes include long term stalking, denial of financial resources, manipulation of family court system to terrify the victim and her children with regular supervised time

### **13. How did she leave?**

After one beating that showed her he was going to kill her - she broke the silence. She told everyone- police, neighbours, family strangers, everyone.

### **14. How are victims stereotyped and why?**

Self-destructive women, damaged goods, it's her fault for staying

### **15. Overall conclusion?**

She's talking about you - someone around us is being abused. End the violence by shining a light on it. Abuse only thrives in silence. Talk about your abuse with everyone. Recognise the early signs of violence and conscientiously intervene - show victims an easy way out. Recast survivors as wonderful, loveable people with full future. Togetherness is the solution.