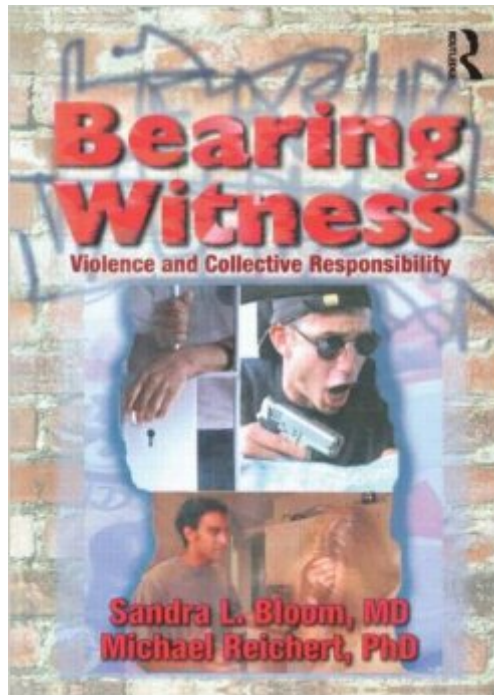


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# Bearing Witness: Violence And Collective Responsibility



## Synopsis

*Bearing Witness: Violence and Collective Responsibility* offers a unique layperson's introduction to the scope and causes of violence and trauma theory and suggests ways we can all work to attack these causes. Upon completing this work, you will have a better understanding of the social causes of the violence epidemic and concrete suggestions for its long-term control. *Bearing Witness* addresses the cycle of violence by discussing some of the biological, psychological, social, and moral issues that go into determining whether a person will end up as a victim, perpetrator, or bystander to violent events and what happens to us when we are in one or all three of these roles. The authors look at a number of intersecting factors that play interdependent roles in creating a culture that promotes, supports, and even encourages violence. Specifically, you will gain invaluable insight into: trauma theory and traumatogenic forces--backdrops against which the chances of exposure to violence and the use of violence as a problemsolver are increased normal human development in the context of attachment theory and what occurs as a result of disrupted attachment bonds how rapid changes in modern society and the breakdown of the traditional family structure contribute to a level of social stress that promotes violence violence in the family, in the workplace, and in the schools--all places to which people turn for security social responses to violence--the ways in which certain responses decrease or increase the likelihood of violence the unhealthy balance of power between the genders and how violence or the threat of violence maintains this imbalance how our cultural standard of disavowing our normal emotional experience sets the stage for repeated and regular empathic failure, which leads to violence A framework for understanding the various aspects of the problem of violence, *Bearing Witness* delves into the various aspects of trauma--what trauma does to the body, the mind, the emotions, and relationships--before beginning to formulate proposals for initiating processes that lead to problemsolving. Once this knowledge base has been established, the authors give you the beginnings of an outline for reorganizing society with the aim of establishing a community that is responsive to the basic human need for safety and peace.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Having just come from a conference given by Dr. Bloom I can whole heartedly say that this is one book every counselor, teacher, youth worker or simply anyone interested in bettering society should read. I have found the techniques presented here exceedingly helpful to my own work as a counselor/advocate of youth. Trauma theory is a fascinating way to address what is really happening to people I see every day. The perspectives presented in this book, if heeded, just may help us down the path towards a safer society we so desperately need to go in the world and the U.S. more directly. Please, read this book and also Creating Sanctuary by Dr. Bloom and watch as your thoughts expand to see the world through the eyes of the victim.

This book is older and the numbers and statistics of different violent acts shows it. It is very one sided in it's opinions and statistics/data/information. For example, it has a section on Domestic Violence, but it mentions NOTHING about men who are victims of DV, only the numbers for women when actually the numbers for male victims are just as high. It is all about the victim and does not talk about the responsibility of all parties involved. Another example: Victims of murder - it talks about drug murders. However, those people were breaking the law. Not to say that killing them was right, however, the victim put himself/herself in that position. All around this book is not a book that unbiasedly looks at violence. It is biased to the "victim" and does NOT take into account all of the types of victims that are out there. I would not recommend this book unless you are willing to allow responsibility to be brushed off onto society and are willing to accept that it is somehow your fault.

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