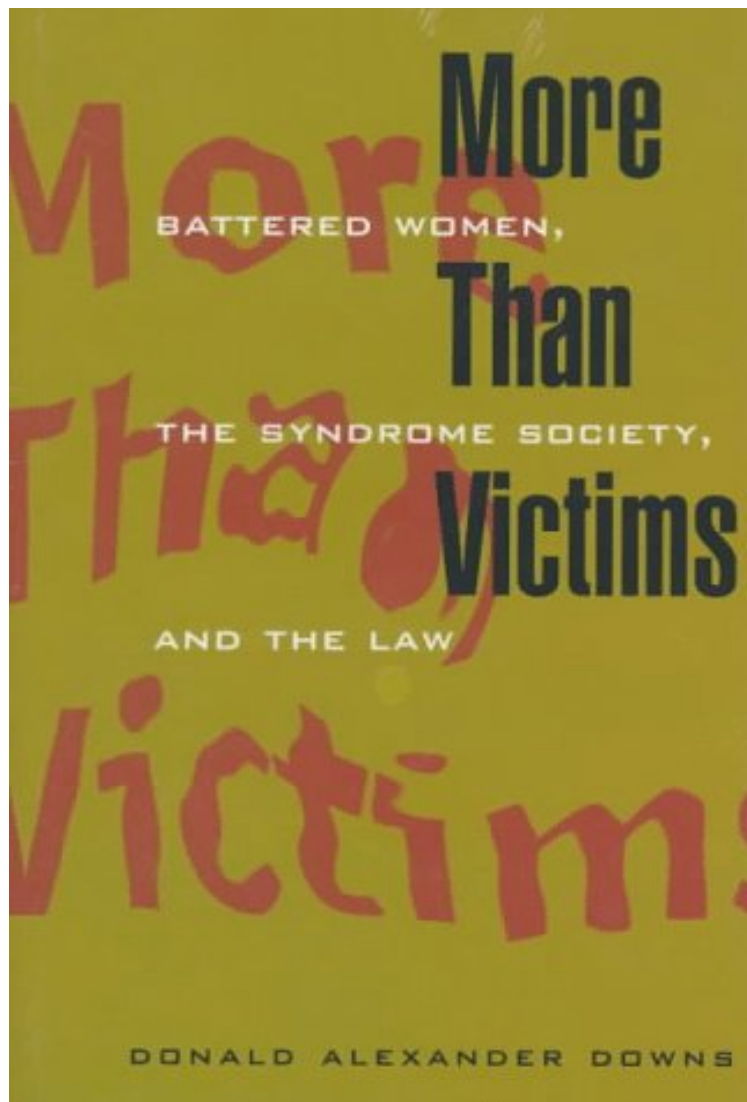


(Free and download) More Than Victims: Battered Women, the Syndrome Society, and the Law (Morality and Society Series)

More Than Victims: Battered Women, the Syndrome Society, and the Law (Morality and Society Series)

Donald Alexander Downs

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Donald Alexander Downs : More Than Victims: Battered Women, the Syndrome Society, and the Law (Morality and Society Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised More Than Victims: Battered Women, the Syndrome Society, and the Law (Morality and Society Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Battered Women a complex, societal issue and a gift from CongressBy Karin HufferMore than Victims is a good title in that the factors that surround battered women are many

layered, complex, and challenge our systems of care. A battered woman is not once assaulted and then turns to the legal system that provides protection and assistance. Instead they enter an adversarial system that too often complicates the picture. They not only are left with post traumatic stress disorder, the batterer is usually a coercive controller that dominates finances, uses power games, and can use the court system against the victim. This adds a societal moral injury to the already victimized spouse. We need more works like *More Than Victims* bringing greater awareness of the layers of difficulties these women face. Congress gave us a gift in the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act that protects those with disabilities especially PTSD during legal proceedings. This law at least provides for equal access to court and a fair hearing. Good Work. Dr. Karin Huffer Author of *Overcoming the Devastation of Legal Abuse Syndrome and Unlocking Justice The ADA guide*

In *More Than Victims*, Donald Downs offers a sympathetic and powerful analysis of the problems attending the use of battered-woman syndrome as a legal defense, ultimately revealing how the syndrome's logic actually harms those it is trying to protect. A persuasive account of how constitutional freedom and individual justice can be threatened by current legal standards, this thorough yet accessible work presents a dramatic rethinking of the criminal justice system. "More Than Victims is a powerful step in the right direction. Women as well as men need to be protected from violence, and women, in particular, require better understanding of their sometimes oppressive situations. But they also need to be able to participate fully in the discourse of politics and citizenship. Downs offers a solution that helps to make both possible." Teresa Godwin Phelps, *Review of Politics* "Downs has written an important book on a subject that deserves more of our attention." Susan Mezey, *Law and Politics Book Review* "Comprehensive and compelling. [Downs] demonstrates a masterful grasp of the complex legal and philosophical issues implicated in domestic violence cases." Annette DeMichele, *New York Law Journal*

From *Publishers Weekly* Legal gadfly Alan Dershowitz called them "abuse excuses" in last year's *The Abuse Excuse* in which he railed against the burgeoning use of criminal self-defenses such as battered-child syndrome and battered-woman syndrome. Downs, a political scientist, doesn't rant. Instead, he considers the ability of these defenses to increase society's awareness of the special fears of individuals "subjected to violence and related forms of abuse on a sustained basis." But he also discusses their failings, focusing primarily on battered-woman syndrome. Relying on a BWS defense, he argues repeatedly, signals an incapacity to employ reason and take responsibility. And when one is officially labeled incapable of being responsible in one context, an individual may "surrender the benefits that accrue to bearing responsibility in another context." Women found to have been afflicted by BWS have fared badly in child custody hearings, he notes. Based on interviews with battered women, experts in the field and prodigious research, Downs concludes that BWS-based defenses are unable to help women who kill in nonconfrontational situations. He suggests reforming the key standards, such as a more flexible standard for imminence along the lines of that used for kidnapping cases, in the law of self-defense. This reasonably accessible work takes the reader through a careful analysis of various syndromes, a legal critique of BWS, and examines the syndrome society from the vantage of political theory and citizenship. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.