

No Secrets No Lies: How Black Families Can **Heal from Sexual Abuse**

By Robin Stone



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With a foreword by Joycelyn Elders, M.D., No Secrets, No Lies is a powerful and daringly honest resource guide for families seeking to understand, prevent, and overcome childhood sexual abuse and its devastating impact on adult survivors.

An estimated one in four women and one in six men is abused by age eighteen, most often by someone they know. Most of these sexual assaults are never disclosed, much less reported to the police.

No Secrets, No Lies demystifies the cultural taboos and social dynamics that keep Black families silent and enable abuse to continue for generations. Among them:

- Fear of betraying family by turning offenders in to "the system"
- Distrust of institutions and authority figures, such as police officers
- Reluctance to seek counseling or therapy
- A legacy of enslavement and stereotypes about black sexuality

Through compelling personal accounts from everyday people, Robin D. Stone, a sexual abuse survivor herself, illuminates the emotional, psychological and hidden consequences of remaining silent, and provides holistic, practical steps to move toward healing.

No Secrets, No Lies candidly speaks to: survivors, telling them they are not at fault, not alone and how they can seek help; parents, guardians and caretakers, explaining how they can keep children safe and help survivors recover; and family, friends and other loved ones, showing ways to lend support.

From the Hardcover edition.

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No Secrets No Lies: How Black Families Can Heal from Sexual Abuse By Robin Stone Bibliography

• Sales Rank: #501367 in Books

Brand: Brand: Harmony
Published on: 2005-03-08
Released on: 2005-03-08
Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 8.50" h x .75" w x 5.50" l, .87 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 304 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Expanding on an article she wrote for *Essence*, where she is a former executive editor, Stone advocates many standard methods for recognizing and coping with abuse. But while the rates of sexual victimization, Stone shows, are the same for blacks and whites, "Black American women were more likely to have withheld reports of attempted rape from authorities" and "were more likely to blame their living circumstances" for an attack. It is Stone's detailed discussion of the probable reasons for such disparities, and her insights into them, that make this book unique. Drawing on her own experience, she argues that the "splitting" or dissociation used by the black community during slavery in order to cope psychologically with lifetimes of abuse is the same technique many African-Americans now use to deal with everyday racism and with sexual abuse. Stereotypes of African-American hypersexuality and of African-American women's mythic "strength" add further complications, which Stone unpacks with unflinching care and with the help of stories of abuse she has collected from black women. Chapters on "Helping Boys and Men" and "Challenging Abusers" offer more techniques for conversation and confrontation, and the book ends with "Reconciliation...and Moving On" and an appendix of resources. Stone's understanding of, and empathy for, incredibly painful situations comes through on every page, and her techniques for beginning to deal with them are compassionate and straightforward.

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Review

"Robin Stone's NO SECRETS, NO LIES is an honest and illuminating look at the soul-shattering effects of sexual abuse. She guides the reader through the shame, denial and devastation of sexual violence—and on the journey toward healing. Stone's courage in facing her own painful experience helps break the silence in the African-American community and move Black women and men toward understanding and recovery. This book is our needed gift."

--Susan L. Taylor, Editorial Director, Essence magazine

"Inspiring and empowering, Robin Stone's NO SECRETS, NO LIES fills a critical gap in the literature on surviving and healing from child sexual abuse. Robin's vivid, insightful narratives reflect the struggles and resilience of a community that has been difficult for many activists and professionals to reach. This excellent book is long overdue."

- -- Laura Davis, author of The Courage to Heal and I Thought We'd Never Speak Again
- "Powerful, positive, and right on time, Robin Stone's NO SECRETS, NO LIES demystifies sexual abuse in the Black community and empowers survivors. A must read for anyone who cares about the health of their family and of children everywhere."
- -- Farai Chideya, author of The Color of Our Future and Don't Believe the Hype
- "NO SECRETS, NO LIES courageously breaks the silence about sexual abuse within the black community. Robin Stone makes a major contribution to the well being of black children and families. This important book should be widely read and discussed."
- -- Alvin F. Poussaint, MD, Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School and Judge Baker Children's Center

"In NO SECRETS, NO LIES Robin D. Stone provides invaluable insights and tools for both families and mental health professionals to address the ever-present problem of sexual abuse that has been hidden too long."

-- Kim Singleton, Ed.D., Clinical Psychologist, and author of Broken Silence

"NO SECRET, NO LIES presents an empowering and healing approach to childhood sexual abuse from a culturally relevant perspective. It provides insight into dysfunctional family dynamics and abuse patterns from the view of victims and perpetrators. Without pathologizing victimization, Robin D. Stone systematically fosters the development of ego strength and survival strategies. Every psychologist and therapist should use NO SECRET, NO LIES as an invaluable guide and resource with clients who have experienced sexual trauma."

-- Darlene Powell-Garlington, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist and author of *Different and Wonderful: Raising Black Children in A Race Conscious Society*

From the Hardcover edition.

From the Inside Flap

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"From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joshua Molina:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specifically book entitled No Secrets No Lies: How Black Families Can Heal from Sexual Abuse the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe not known for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a book then become one form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get before. The No Secrets No Lies: How Black Families Can Heal from Sexual Abuse

giving you a different experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful information for your better life with this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Wendy Clark:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray an individual, why because this No Secrets No Lies: How Black Families Can Heal from Sexual Abuse publication written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written inside good manner for you, dripping every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still hesitation No Secrets No Lies: How Black Families Can Heal from Sexual Abuse as good book not merely by the cover but also by the content. This is one book that can break don't ascertain book by its protect, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your studying sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Sophia Hardee:

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Ronny Baird:

In this era which is the greater individual or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to have a look at some books. Among the books in the top collection in your reading list will be No Secrets No Lies: How Black Families Can Heal from Sexual Abuse. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking upwards and review this guide you can get many advantages.

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