

young people; Levy herself examines the unique aspects of adolescent dating, some of which partially explain this reticence to adopt the issue. Dee Graham and Edna Rawlings' piece, "Bonding with Abusive Dating Partners: Dynamics of Stockholm Syndrome," parallels the relationships between hostages and their captors, and women and their violent boyfriends, and offers a most interesting perspective on bidirectional bonding and denial of abuse.

The third section of the book looks at intervention techniques and the barriers to existing support services faced by many "young women in danger." A focused look at Asian-Pacific victims of abuse highlights some of the specific repercussions many young women face by disclosing abusive intimate relationships. Similar double binds faced by young women who suffer abuse at the hands of their lesbian partners are discussed by Levy and Kerry Lobel, who remind us first that services for battered lesbians are extremely limited, and second that to find support the young women must expose their lesbian identity. Essays on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and "flooding" as therapeutic intervention pale in comparison to the more interesting nature of the problems they seek to treat, but are nonetheless (or all the more) necessary to the discussion.

Education and prevention become increasingly pertinent as the enormity of the dating violence problem surfaces. The context of the six program profiles Levy offers is undeniably American; this does not, however, detract from the overall applicability of the book north of the 49th. The shortness of the educational resource list underlines the serious need for greater initiatives in dating violence prevention. The complete bibliography on dating violence will be a goddess-send to those working in this field.

*Dating Violence: Young Women in Danger* offers a thorough, varied, and personal-political orientation to dating violence. The book moves logically and thoroughly from orientation to contextualization, to instruction and to example. Levy goes beyond consciousness-raising and calls for action, providing concrete models and proving the urgent need for active prevention and intervention strategies. As a resource to the initiated service worker, and as an introduction to the uninitiated, Levy's collection is an extremely valuable tool.

## NO MORE SECRETS

Nina Weinstein. Seattle, Washington:  
The Seal Press, 1990.

*By Rachel Brandeis*

I think that novels like this one are very important for teenagers (I am sixteen) today to read. *No More Secrets* shows how sexual abuse can affect the rest of a woman's life, but as well, it explains that it is possible to face up to things, deal with them, and heal from them.

Amanda Baker's mother refused to believe that her daughter had been raped when she was eight years old. Amanda's father Maury had been out of town on business when it all happened. Amanda was in bed trying to get to sleep when a man came into her room and said, "Your mother knows I'm here, she said it's o.k."

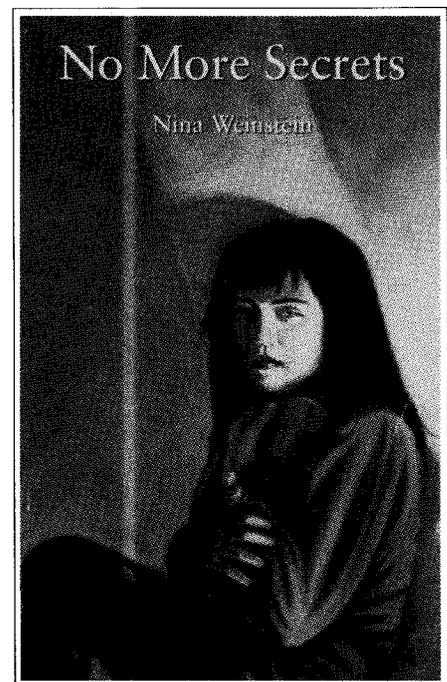
Amanda was confused. She wondered why her mother let this strange man into her room. But the fact that her mom said it was o.k. for the man to do what he did bothered her the most.

After the man had left, Amanda told her mother that he had hurt her. The following day they went to the hospital, where a nurse told her, "A big girl like you should've known better, Amanda. You really should have." The doctor found traces of blood. Amanda admitted that the strange man had touched her uncomfortably, but she would never let anyone know that she had been raped.

At the age of thirteen Amanda and her family moved to a town in southern California called Iverlawn. There they were "as poor as church mice." Amanda started high school and became very best friends with a girl named Steffie. But still Amanda kept her secret to herself.

At the age of sixteen Amanda became very sick. She would wake up during the night with diarrhoea and would vomit during the day at school. Also, for three months she stopped having her period. Amanda was hospitalized for a few days while doctors conducted all kinds of tests. Nobody every really figured out what was wrong with her, but Amanda's illness forced her mother to confront what had happened eight years ago.

Amanda started going to a therapist. She learned how to deal with what happened and how to begin the process of healing herself. She could now accept that



she had been raped, but she was still puzzled about the man who came into her room that night while her mother was home. Amanda was dying to know who he was, but every time she tried to talk to her mother, she just told Amanda to forget about it, and never bring it up again.

Finally Amanda's mother agreed to tell her everything. With all her questions answered, she can move on with her life.

The characters were very well drawn. Amanda appears to be a very lonely girl, although on the inside she is really quite strong. I felt like I knew her personally, and could relate to her problems.

The novelist describes her settings so clearly that I can easily imagine a scene and know something important about the characters in it: "...my mom and dad were at the kitchen table, which was covered with dirty dishes from this morning. There was an old Philco refrigerator that hummed every once in a while in the far corner of the room, and a stove that had brown stains all over the burners right next to it. The walls were Pepto Bismol pink. We'd lived in the house three years, and as far as I knew, no one had ever painted."

Nina Weinstein made me enjoy reading about a very tough subject. The topics of sexual abuse and rape usually make me uncomfortable, but since this book was so well written I now feel comfortable reading and talking about these things. I would recommend this novel to any teenager or young adult who enjoys a good story and who may also want to feel more comfortable in dealing with these subjects.