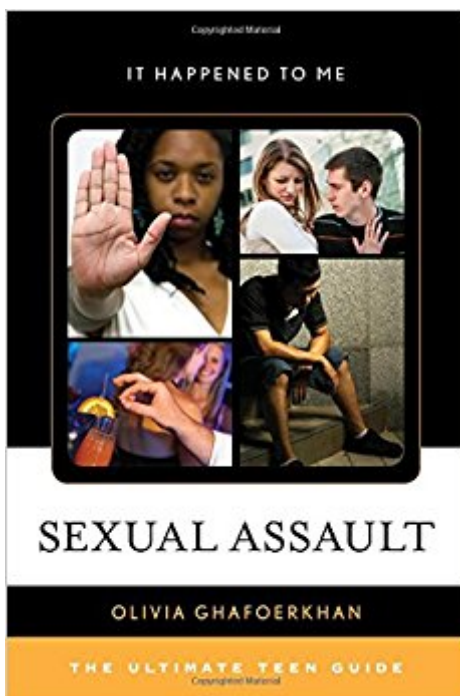


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Sexual Assault: The Ultimate Teen Guide (It Happened To Me)



Synopsis

Out of all reported cases of sexual assault, nearly 70 percent occur with victims who are under the age of seventeen, and it has been estimated that one in ten children will be sexually abused before they turn eighteen. Sexual assault has become an all-too-common occurrence among young adults. An assault can cause physical injuries, STDs and STIs, post-traumatic stress disorder, flashbacks, anxiety, depression, and other re-experiencing symptoms. It can lead to poor academic performance, substance abuse, risky sexual behavior, and even suicide. Research has also shown that victims of sexual abuse are more likely to confide in friends than in adults, but those friends may not be equipped to help. In *Sexual Assault: The Ultimate Teen Guide*, Olivia Ghafoerkhan describes the various ways sexual violence can be perpetrated, discusses myths many teens believe about the subject, and outlines how young adults can get the help they need to begin the healing process. Topics covered include date rape, abusive relationships, incest, breaking the silence, victim blaming, support, and healing. An invaluable resource for young people, *Sexual Assault: The Ultimate Teen Guide* aims to give victims and their friends the courage to report such crimes, advice on where to find help, and hope that life can return to some sense of normalcy after such a horrific experience.

Book Information

Series: It Happened to Me (Book 51)

Hardcover: 216 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 0.7 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #578,314 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Sexual Abuse #35 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Violence #137 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Violence

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

In her impassioned, thorough, forthright guide to the increasingly contentious arena of sexual consent, Ghafoerkhan draws a firm line: "Unwanted contact, such as kissing or groping, is . . . sexual assault." Of course, the possibilities extend beyond disturbing to the unimaginably horrific. However, she takes care to dismiss the standard "rape script" (entailing a deserted locale and a violent stranger), driving home the point that, in the majority of sexual assault cases, the perpetrator is someone the victim knows. A wealth of deeply moving first-person accounts brings home the repercussions of unwanted sexual contact. While mustering a staggering array of statistics, the author keeps the focus personal (the prevailing voice is second person) and restorative as well as preventative. "Healing" from a sexual assault isn't always possible in the traditional sense," she notes in a chapter devoted to coping with the aftermath, "which is why many professionals use the word recovery." The closing segment moves on to "Activism": "I call it from pain to purpose," says one survivor. The book's price precludes slipping a copy into every last high school locker "though statistically, one out of every six U.S. women will face rape at some point in their lives" but it certainly deserves a place in every school library. (Booklist, Starred Review) This important teen guide performs two crucial functions: educating teens on numerous myths associated with sexual assault, and showing teens how to help both themselves and their friends. Given that teens are, according to the author, more likely to confide about these assaults to their friends rather than to an adult, *Sexual Assault: The Ultimate Teen Guide* provides essential guidance for the all-too-many teens who have to confront these issues.... This essential resource is thought-provoking and humbling, and it is ideal for teen allies "including parents, educators, and mentors" who want to understand how they can help. (Foreword Reviews) This entry in the *It Happened to Me* series provides an easy-to-read, moving guide to understanding sexual assault. The author begins by discussing the many ways sexual assault happens, followed by the myths that surround the situations and the ways a person can get help if it happens to them. There are sidebars which contain stories or other information that may be pertinent. Many works of fiction and movies dealing with the subject are presented to the reader. I was especially interested in the analysis of the *Twilight* series, where the author notes the number of occurrences when Bella is ordered to do something by the main male characters, as well as the number of references to suicide, self-harm, and instances of male aggression. The author discusses how important it is to speak up about instances of sexual assault, but that many times the person to whom the victim speaks is a friend who may not be able to help. I recommend this book as a necessary and most helpful addition to high school and public libraries. (School Library Connection)

Olivia Ghafoerkhan has an MFA in writing for children and young adults and teaches composition at a community college in Virginia. She has completed training to assist sexual assault victims who are in crisis, and volunteers through the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network.

Although it's not a fun topic to study, it's a very important one. So many have suffered in silence, scared to tell their stories. Through this book many victims have found a safe outlet for their stories. This book is full of authentic, raw stories that will touch your heart. If we can quit trying to hide incidents of sexual assault and start to examine them, we are one step closer to creating solutions...to creating a society where sexual assault is recognized for what it is and hopefully in many cases prevented.

Despite the increasingly visible nature of sexual assault in the media, it is still an often down-played, explained away or outright ignored topic. This book brings things right to the forefront for the reader. This easy to read guide has several different aspects: personal stories, media recommendations for further information on the topic, helpful tips and quizzes. While it is uncomplicated to read, it is absolute not EASY to read. The stories included convey the feelings of each individual, including pain, shame, fear, and in some, the sense of slow, intensive healing. The large print and reading level help keep the book flowing well, but be prepared to need a little time to get through it. Although very well written, it's still a very tough subject to read.

This book is very insightful, and I believe is a useful resource.

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