

**“I was violated again by the abortionist.”**

Women victimized by sexual assault deserve our full support. They are asking Legislators for a chance to tell their side of the story. Studies show that most do not want abortion. Those who aborted report that it only increased their trauma. Those who didn't abort had no regrets.

**Better outcomes among women who don't abort.**

- 70% had their babies, and none regretted their decision.
- 78% of those who aborted had regrets and said that abortion was the wrong solution.<sup>1</sup>

**Women impacted by assault-related pregnancy petition for Congressional hearings.**

Studies indicate abortion makes a traumatic situation even worse. An Ad Hoc Committee of Women Pregnant by Sexual Assault has put together a Petition to Congress and State Legislators\* to request hearings on this issue ([www.afterabortion.org/vault](http://www.afterabortion.org/vault)).

**Assault victims coerced into and further traumatized by abortion.**

A survey of women who've had a sexual assault pregnancy revealed that many only aborted because they felt pressured, and that abortion only increased their grief and trauma.<sup>1</sup>

**Assault cases have higher risk of complications.**

The more difficult the circumstances prompting abortion, the more likely a woman will suffer severe post-abortion problems.<sup>2</sup>

**Sexual assault is a known risk factor for post-abortion problems.<sup>2</sup> Other risks of abortion include:**

- 31% suffer health complications
- Higher death rates from all causes
- 65% suffer symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Suicide rates are 6 times higher<sup>3</sup>

**“Victims and Victors”**

*Victims and Victors: Speaking Out About Their Pregnancies, Abortions, and Children Resulting From Sexual Assault* includes research and testimonies from women who had sexual assault pregnancies. Order from Acorn Books: 1-888-412-2676.

**“Forced Abortion in America”**

- Assault victims often report that someone else made the abortion decision for them. The pressure to abort can escalate to violence or even murder.<sup>4</sup>
- Teens have been taken to clinics for forced abortions and returned to their rapists.<sup>1</sup>
- 64% of women surveyed after abortion report feeling pressured into unwanted abortions.<sup>5</sup>
- For research, headlines and stories of coercion and abortion-related violence, download “Forced Abortion in America,” and other resources and fact sheets at [www.theunchoice.com/resources.htm](http://www.theunchoice.com/resources.htm).

1. *Victims and Victors* (Springfield, IL: Acorn Books, 2000) 19-22. 2. Reardon, “Abortion Decisions and the Duty to Screen,” *J. Contemporary Health Law and Policy* 20(1):109, Winter 2003. 3. See the “Research and Key Facts” booklet at [www.theunchoice.com/resources.htm](http://www.theunchoice.com/resources.htm). 4. See the special report “Forced Abortions in America,” at [www.theunchoice.com/resources](http://www.theunchoice.com/resources). 5. VM Rue et. al., “Induced abortion and traumatic stress: A preliminary comparison of American and Russian women,” *Medical Science Monitor* 10(10):SR5-16, 2004.

## The Hard Cases — Denise’s Story

### “Please don’t let them be assaulted again.”

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#### “I was never given a choice.”

“That child has no voice, no defense, no chance ... unless we offer real love and real compassion to the mother. ... Don’t let them be exploited again by someone who will make a profit from their dead child -- a memory that will haunt them for the rest of their lives.”

Although she is actively pro-life, Denise says that very few people know her story and that it is still very difficult to share. When she was 15, Denise was raped by her father, who then forced her to have an abortion. Like 78% of those who have had abortions after rape or incest,<sup>1</sup> she found the abortion only intensified her pain.

“... [the doctor] asked three nurses to hold me down while he strapped me to the bed . . . I continued to scream that I didn’t want an abortion. He told me, “Shut up and quit that yelling!”

- I was told that an abortion would solve my problem,  
*when it was never really the problem in the first place.*
- I was told, ‘Your parents know what’s best,’  
*when they obviously were only concerned about their own reputations.*
- I was told, ‘You made the right decision,’  
*when I was never given a choice.*
- I was violated and betrayed by my father.  
*I was violated again by the abortionist.*

Why do even pro-lifers talk about exceptions for rape and incest?

Give this mother the opportunity to choose life for her child. ... Don’t let them be exploited again.

The mom needs love, support and understanding, not the pain of allowing herself to be violated again in order to kill her child.

Excerpted from *Victims and Victors: Speaking Out About Their Pregnancies, Abortions, and Children Resulting from Sexual Assault*, edited by David C. Reardon, Julie Makimaa and Amy Sobie (Acorn Books, 2000) p. 124-126.

1. *Victims and Victors* (Springfield, Acorn Books, 2000) 19-20.