

# Victims of Loverboys (Pimps): Juvenile prostitution and Psychopathology



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# Juvenile Prostitution and Psychopathology

## Elusive

# Juvenile Prostitution and Psychopathology



## Elusive

- § They are in love
  - § 'Not that I am in love'
- § They are intimidated and/or raped
  - § 'It is as if they have power over you'
- § They are traumatized
  - § 'When you don't speak about it is as if it never happened'
- § They keep many things secret
  - § 'I arranged to be in time for music lessons'
  - § 'My parents didn't know that I worked in a club at night'
- § They are liable for blackmail
  - § 'In a few weeks I was for 5000 euro in depth'
- § They consider this as normal
  - § 'Everybody said it was normal what I did'
- § They are frightened to death
  - § 'They knew where I live and went a couple of times through our street'
  - § 'He threatened to stab my father'

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## § The beginning (grooming):

- § He stand up for her, she fell sort of in love for him, had the idea to belong to him, was raped at night by him and two other boys
- § It was just cozy, they were talking, sweet things happened, two weeks later he started to talk about girls working in clubs, they had sex with the four of them together another girl included, that made that I trusted it, a few days later I was working in the club
- § With a knife in my back I was forced to close a telephone-account, I had for E 5000 depths in a few weeks, then I had to work for them, had to go to bed with men
- § He was just there, gave me the attention I needed, I just didn't go to school, went with the train to him, at his home he touched me and raped me, I was scared
- § I became in touch with a boy through the internet, we had an appointment and went for a drink, his telephone ringed and he said that he had to go home, there were three men waiting, he told me to go to the bedroom and that I knew what to do, the three of them raped me

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## The rape:

- § She didn't understand it, she was taken completely by surprise, she was frightened and very anxious, wanted to leave but they kept her, in the bedroom, the three of them raped her, she was mainly frozen, scared to death, tried to resist but to no avail, the worst thing was that she had no control, they did with her what they wanted to do, she was raped, they touched her, were laughing and busy all the time, gave her some money, said that she had done well, said that she had to come immediately when they would call her
- § It happened twice in a similar way and the last time she was able to escape

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## Afterwards:

- § Her parents didn't notice anything, she said she had slept at her girlfriends place
- § Her father had no idea, she felt disgusting, was very angry, a little scared, she was watching television expressionless
- § She could hold it for two days for herself, her mother tried everything to find out what had happened
- § She was afraid how her parents would respond, they would go to the police, she doesn't want to do this, she is so afraid, afraid that they will find her
- § Nobody had an idea, she was playing theater, one girl knew, but her mother had no idea
- § Afterwards, finding help earlier would have been much better
- § The things they write in the newspapers aren't correct
- § The last weeks she can't sleep, she is too tired, is turning around, can be very aggressive, she sleeps through the alarm, is so tired, she is seeing the men at the bench at the courthouse
- § Tomorrow it will happen again, she will continue to make a declaration at the police office, last time it was the same

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§ **Sleep problems, flashbacks, and nightmares:**

‘She had lots of nightmares and images for her eyes, especially about the rape, especially about the rape because it was the first time she had sex and he was very violent, he was aggressive and hard to her. When she could free herself and was yelling he took a pistol, put it on her head, then you are silent, that is often on my mind.’

§ **Depersonalization and dissociation:**

‘The sex was aggressive and hurted me, you feel like a doll handled from one to the other, I was not myself anymore.’

§ **Anxiety, grief, sadness:**

‘Afterwards she was anxious and sad.’

§ **Hyper-arousal, hyper-alert:**

‘She went only out with other people around, was always looking around, she couldn’t stand hard noises, was easily scared’

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§ **Self depreciation and guilt:**

‘It always comes to my mind that that other girl is still there, it is alright that I am away but I feel guilty about her.’

§ **Inability to speak about it:**

‘I didn’t dare to speak about it, was scared that people would be angry at me or wouldn’t be able to understand it.’

§ **Scared for revenge:**

‘He cold me a thousand times, I ignored it, saw him a couple of times downtown, at the station but I took care to keep distance.’

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## Other responses:

§ **Aggression:**

‘It became black in front of my eyes’

§ **Angry at oneself:**

‘That I let this happen, that I could be so stupid, that is what I blame myself for’

‘I should have never went with them’.

§ **Concentration problems, poor functioning at school**

§ **Substance use:**

Blowing, cocaine, speed, alcohol, heroine

§ **Auto mutilation**

‘When you see yourself bleeding, you know that you are still alive, you can choose yourself whether you want to live, make a choice yourself’

§ **Running away from home, truancy, promiscuous behavior**

§ ‘I was raped every week, it was just that I was so scared, otherwise they come after you, I couldn’t tell them that I didn’t want this, I was so scared, so scared’

§ **Psychotic symptoms**

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## § Early years:

§ 'she arrived all of a sudden, her mother didn't know she was pregnant, she is mentally retarded'

## § Bullying:

§ 'she was always an outsider, was adopted and her hair was different'

§ 'she was hit and threatened, didn't attend school because of the bullying'

## § Abuse

§ 'her uncle had hit her aunt and stabbed her with a knife, he is threatening her now if she would say something'

§ 'the worst thing was when her father put a knife on her throat'

## § Abuse

§ By her friend's father, by a boy, a stepfather, a teacher, an uncle

§ 'at the end she is able to express herself, from her 9<sup>th</sup> until 15<sup>th</sup> year she was abused by her mother's friend, nobody noticed anything, the pictures in her mind are about this, it was bad and painful'

§ 'until she was 7 she lived with her mother, during this time she was abused by her mother's boyfriend, she had forgotten about it'

§ 'she acknowledges that more has happened, but she is not yet able to speak about it'

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- § Attachment
- § Loneliness and a need for attention
- § Feelings of insufficiency
- § Traumatization and abuse
- § Divorce and family split-up

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## Protective factors

### - keep asking questions

#### § **Parents**

'My mother wanted to know everything

#### § **Mentor, teachers and school doctor**

The doctor at school kept keeping questions when I had something with my hand

#### § **Police**

'The police saw immediately that I was terrified to death and took me with them'

# Trauma and Psychopathology



## Psychiatric Treatment:

- § A well-structured and busy day-program
- § Psycho-education
- § Medication
  - § Sleep
  - § Depression
  - § Intrusive impulses
- § Improvement of sleep
- § Movement: running, steps, sport
- § Stabilisation of PTSS-symptoms, especially dissociation
- § EMDR
- § Interapy (treatment through Internet)
- § Counseling and TF-CBT
  
- § Safety measures
- § System therapy

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**More questions?**

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