

“The real life stories in the book are at once heart-wrenching and inspiring. It is a tragedy of immense proportions that such abuse is rampant within our culture. It has taken candor and courage for Christie to carefully articulate the cause of this victimization and offer correctives. We dare not ignore such alarm bells. Every reader, male and female, should learn from this if we are to bring hope for women in our society. I commend this book for your reading.”

**Ravi Zacharias, Author and Speaker,
Founder and President RZIM, USA.**

“Dr. Latha has done society a great service, by using the power of first person stories to shine a light into the darkness of the denial, shame, and fear surrounding the worldwide epidemic of domestic violence. Her book provides hope and wisdom to survivors of abuse, and also a detailed look into the dynamics of domestic violence that will be especially helpful to pastors, counselors and other workers.”

**Dr Bradford M Smith, PhD, Lausanne Sr. Associate and Director
of Care and Counsel International, Institute for Global Mental
Health and the Church, Belhaven University, Jackson, MS, USA**

“Dr Latha uses case studies to provide understanding on how abuse starts, becomes stealthy and vicious and finally locks the victim into silence and devastating inner turmoil. She explores the difficult question of why people who abuse also claim to love their victims. She discusses the helplessness of family members who, even if they know of the abuse, find themselves helpless to intervene. Dr. Latha highlights the slow loss of identity and spontaneity in the lives of abused wives and the horror and helplessness of their children. The book has a message of hope written through its pages, for those who have reached the end of hope, calling couples who live with abuse to seek counseling and marriage therapy and to believe that God can bring restoration. I believe that this book will highlight the need for many abused wives to break the silence and never to believe that they should be blamed for wife battering.

**Gladys K. Mwiti, Ph.D. Consulting Clinical Psychologist,
Founder & CEO, Oasis Africa - Center for Transformational
Psychology & Trauma, Nairobi, Kenya**

In God's eyes men women are equally loved and esteemed. But as evil has come into the world, so it has come into what God has intended to be the most sacred of relationships. Dr.Latha Christie has written a compelling and sensitive description of this terrible dilemma. It is full of real life examples, accompanied by thoughtful counsel. Regardless of the cultural norms, no one should ever be subjected to physical, emotional, verbal or sexual abuse. It affronts our very human dignity. It undermines our human and spiritual potential. It robs the vulnerable among us of happiness, security and self esteem that is what God intended. Yet she describes a sure path to healing and hope- not a fairy tale but Truth and Love personified. I commend this book as a much needed guide for women who are trapped in the cycle of abuse. It will save your life. It will give you a path forward and a hope for the future.

Jerry E. White, PhD, Author and Speaker, Retired US Air Force Major General, International President Emeritus, The Navigators, USA

Dr. Latha Christie has done the world a real & important service in tackling with insight, compassion, courage, faith & human understanding the deeply pervasive worldwide problem of women & child abuse. She brings into scorching light a problem of agonizing pain & sadness which most marriages world-wide try to keep hidden in darkness & subterfuge. In doing so, she not only exposes the depth & extent of the problem, but gives very practical counsel as to the Way Out. Over & above her psychological understandings, she even shows how faith in Christ & sustained prayer can make a mighty difference. This is a book of required reading for all social workers, counsellors & even doctors to master & propagate to those anguished people they regularly meet who are victims of abuse. Bravo, Dr. Christie! You have rendered humankind a beautiful service with this deep, tender & sensitively written volume of healing. May it be very widely read.

MICHAEL CASSIDY, Founder of African Enterprise, & Hon.Co-Chair of the Lausanne Movement, S. Africa.

Dr. Latha has produced a wonderful blend of heart-wrenching personal experience and practical advice for the women who are caught in a trap where it seems there are no options to domestic violence except suicide. I am personally aware of children orphaned in India because their mother saw no other way out. We have provided batterer intervention programs for almost 20 years and the stories in this book are very much like those I have heard from clients over the years, but the good news is that there is hope in Jesus Christ. We have seen many marriages saved and many batterers changed. It is my hope that this

book will be widely read and distributed in India and, as a result, many lives and marriages will be saved.

**Dr. Troy Reiner, Director of Word of Life Counseling Center and
Counseling Training Institute, Wichita, Kansas, USA**

The title of Dr Christie's book is apt in more ways than one. It conveys the strength and ultimate survival of spirit that every human being is born with, as well as its vulnerability to forces that threaten to snuff it out. It is a bold, heart-wrenching account that makes for compelling reading on the brutality of marital abuse and the havoc it causes among families. The combination of personal experience with case studies, statistics, and scholarly references, enhances the value of the book for the reader. It shows the widespread prevalence of abuse which cuts across geography, class, and culture. Dr Christie offers hope to women in similar situations by showing how to combat and emerge out of a seemingly hopeless plight.

**Saleem Peeradina, Author and Poet, Emeritus Professor, Siena
Heights University, USA**

“God created man and woman in the image of God; abuse and violence destroys that image. The book is practical, filled with real life examples and thoughtful counsel. It shows the path to healing and emerging from the debris of the great evil of abuse and violence by the grace of God.”

**Rev. Dr Mohan, Vice Chairman, World Assemblies of God.
General Suptd. All India Assemblies of God Churches**

“Dr Latha Christie has reflected deep sense of understanding of the current and burning issues of present society. Her sense of responsibility to the society in general and contribution to the betterment of women in particular is immense and noble. The book is highly informative; reveals the emotional turmoil, the hurt, humiliation, agony and despair and clearly elucidates the emotions and feelings of victims. It helps one to understand the root cause of the problem and gives practical ways to deal with it and is for all those who work for women empowerment.

Dr K Ramachandran, Director, DIPR, Delhi

This book is another rich resource for those who either suffer in, or serve people in, desperately needy situations. It is bound to shed light, bring comfort and strength to the many that are undergoing the despair and pain of abuse in the family. The stories and insights gathered through the many personal interactions will surely bless the reader.

Dr. Jacob Cherian, Vice President & Dean of Faculty, Southern Asia Bible College, Bangalore, India

This is a brave, honest and deeply felt work about abuse in marriage. It will help many couples, particularly women, fight back from a disadvantaged situation and rebuild their lives.

Dr Kavery Nambisan, Surgeon and Novelist, India

“Violence against women is so common that we are often not too shocked by it. Dr. Latha Christie awakens us to the reality of domestic violence and marital abuse around us. These painful stories show how so many women are being subjected to repeated abuse within the walls of their own home. This book is not just a collection of stories but a handbook for women facing marital abuse. It voices out what a woman goes through physically, emotionally and spiritually while facing abuse. The best part is that there is always HOPE. An abusive relationship does not have to end your life. I hope this book finds its way into the hands of those caught in the web of such abuse and gives them the courage to rise above it, the courage to seek help and not stay silent. And I hope that many men will rise up to feel this passionately about women’s safety!

**Kavitha Emmanuel, Founder Director, Women of Worth (WOW),
Founder of the 'Dark is beautiful' & 'Girl Arise' campaigns**

Dr Latha Christie's driving desire to make clear what domestic violence is all about and thereby give hope and healing to women is commendable. In keeping with this aim, she goes on to describe real life experiences, document attested facts, and firmly couches these within her deep commitment to the Christian faith. There is a growing need to bring to the fore this inhumane crime against women in our country. The media is playing a powerful role and Christie's book will add a significant part in empowering women to stand up for their rights. Dignity, self respect and desire for living, according to the writer is what is urgently needed. The practical advice Dr Latha gives will certainly guide them towards these virtues they have sadly been deprived of. Her's

is an inspired confident message "Dare to dream...everything is possible with God."

**Dr Ken Gnanakan, Speaker and Author, Chairman,
International Council of Higher Education, Chancellor, Acts
Group, Chairman & Managing Director, Theological Book Trust.**

This book by Dr Latha Christie is well researched and well written. It is based on the firsthand experience of a large number of women, who ironically experienced violence in the very places where they should have felt safe and at the hands of the very person who once solemnly vowed to protect and preserve them. It serves as an eye opener and a guide to victims of domestic violence such that they do not remain victims, but emerge as victors and rediscover hope and "beauty from the ashes." I strongly recommend the book to not just women but anyone who intends to understand the causes & the remedies of this malaise that affects reportedly 40% of marriages in the country."

**Dr Prateep V Philip, IPS, ADGP Economic Offences Wing, TN,
India.**

I am mesmerized with the contents of the book. Unforgettable and fascinating details; Very sensitive and frank revelations. The violence and atrocities towards women are prevalent like a virus across the society. The book moved me to tears. Kudos to Dr Latha for bringing this into public domain.

**Alka Suri, Chairperson, DRDO Women's Complaint
Committee and Assoc. Director, DBF&A, DRDO, N. Delhi, India.**

An appropriate book for a time such as this, especially when our country is facing atrocities against women of all age groups. Christie's book not only highlights the problem that the woman faces but also provides for them a platform to get back to society with dignity, hope and celebrate their role as a woman. Reading this book will inspire every reader to honour the woman whom God has created in his image. It will change our perspective and will also enable us to pass on values to the younger generation. It is a book that just echoes the pain of millions waiting to live a life of freedom. Her commitment to God and her passion to serve people is reflected in this book.

Rev. Benjamin. C.A, National director, FEBA, Bangalore, India

It is a wonderful exposition of a grave problem that afflicts millions of women, but is seldom discussed openly. This book is a must-read on the path to conjugal harmony as it offers hope and pragmatic self-help advice.

Manas K. Mandal, PhD, FNAPsy, Distinguished Scientist & Director General – LS, DRDO, N. Delhi, India.