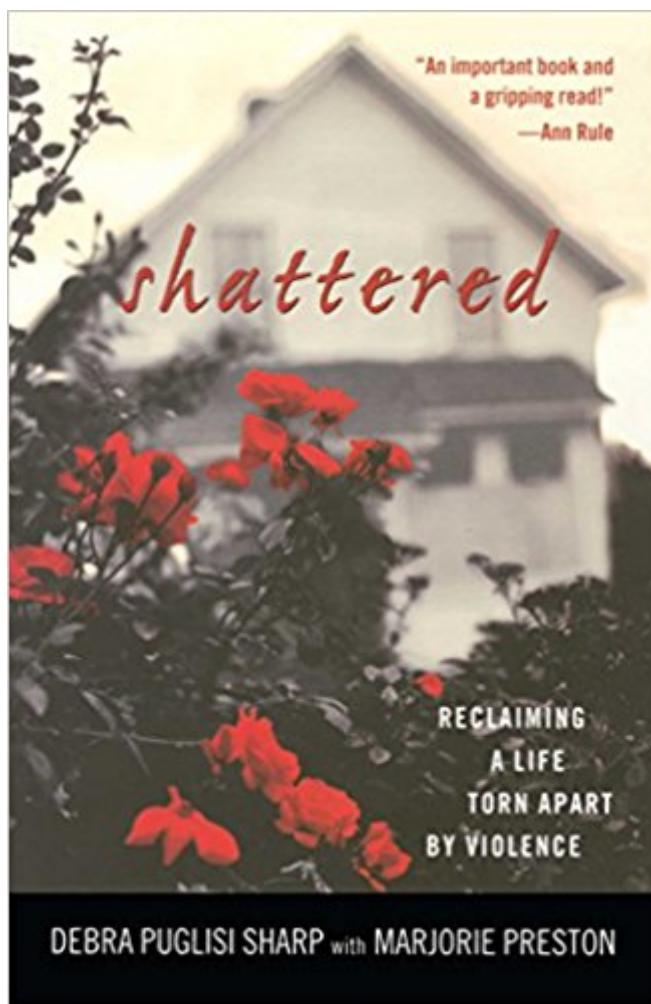


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# Shattered: Reclaiming A Life Torn Apart By Violence



## **Synopsis**

In April 1998, Debra Puglisi Sharp -- wife, nurse, and mother of teenage twins -- was tending the roses in her garden when a factory worker with a cocaine habit slipped in through an open door and waited for her to come in. Nino, her husband of twenty-five years, got in the way and was shot. The man then attacked and raped Debra, placed her in the trunk of his car, and drove away. Kept hog-tied in her abductor's house, Debra finally learned of her husband's murder from a newscast on a radio that the man blared to muffle her screams while he was out. After five excruciating days, Debra's mounting rage at her captor -- and the wrenching thought of her children burying their father alone -- gave her the courage and strength she desperately needed. She loosened her ties, groped her way to the phone...and dialed 911. *Shattered* is an indelible portrait of hope, determination, and the agonizing journey back to life. Struggling to heal from her horrendous ordeal and the devastating loss of her husband, Debra also had to endure an agonizing court trial, the raw grief of her children, and her own crippling fear. But through her work in hospice care and as an advocate for victims of violence and trauma, she has slowly discovered the measure of her own strength. A compelling survival story -- tragic and ultimately heroic -- *Shattered* represents one woman's attempts to make sense of a senseless crime.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In 1998 the author, a hospice nurse, wife and mother, was attacked in her Delaware home by Donald Flagg, a cocaine-addicted factory worker. Flagg entered her house and shot and killed Nico,

her husband of 25 years. When Sharp came inside from gardening, Flagg was waiting. After raping her, he stuffed her in his car trunk. She was tied up and imprisoned in Flagg's house for five days and learned that her husband was dead only through a radio news report. Sharp was rescued after she was able to loosen her bonds and dial 911, while her captor was at work. This gripping and dramatic story, recounted with the assistance of journalist Preston, is a subjective but powerful argument for the rights of crime victims and a testament to the author's courage and resilience. Sharp describes how the tragedy affected Michael and Melissa, her two college-aged children, as well as other family members, incisively noting that all the minor strife and strain that existed before the crime remain. Despite Flagg's trial attorneys' attempt to build a case for insanity by eliciting sympathy for their client, even though he had raped other women, Flagg was sentenced to life imprisonment. Now remarried, the author is currently a national speaker for victim's rights. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is the kind of story to which the phrase "living nightmare" applies. In April 1998, the author was working in her garden when a cocaine-addicted factory worker abducted her. He raped her in her own home, put her in his car, and took her to his house, where he kept her tied up for five days. While she was being held captive, she heard in a radio report that the man had murdered her husband. Her abductor might have kept her longer than five days, perhaps until he killed her, if she hadn't managed to get free and call 911. It's a remarkable story, and it doesn't end with Sharp's rescue. Not only did the author have to cope with the effect of her ordeal, she also had to undergo a very public trial and deal with the grief of her children. At times difficult to read (Sharp doesn't pull many punches), this is true crime from the point of view of the victim, and reading it is an unforgettable intense experience. Expect beyond-the-book-pages publicity. David PittCopyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Requirement reading for Victimology course! A hard topic to write about, so happy that woman is doing well...

Very well written. The worst imaginable ordeal of survival and coming out the other side almost in one piece. Well worth reading.

I was afraid to read this true crime book, as I knew about the case from the newspapers. This book however, explains how expansive the damage to a family can be, when often we focus on just the "victims" in this case a family and a community. Mrs Sharp tells this story to you like a confidante, a friend. You can really understand what was going on in her mind and what continued from the murder, her abduction and abuse, the trial and beyond. I wish Mrs. Sharp would write a follow up to this book. I cannot help but feel that she is my sister, my friend. I want to know how her life is going. I am profoundly grateful that she has shared her innermost feelings. She shares the struggle, and has surely helped many people through her work. When you are finished with this book, you will want to hand it to someone else to read.

How does someone go through a horrifying experience and come out the other side with love in her heart? This is the TRUE STORY that reminds us all how precious life is. How precious our family is and that we should not take one second for-granted. This book reminds us that we are all vulnerable and our lives can change in a split second. This author teaches us that what we do after tragedy, who we become after tragedy, is everything. Do we let tragedy define us, or rise above it? This is a book about the human spirit, courage, and transformation. I definitely recommend it. Lori Rubenstein Author of *Forgiveness: Heal Your Past and Find the Peace You Deserve*[...]

This is a book I chose at random because I thought the description was a little interesting and didn't have high hopes for the story to be completely honest. This story Completely blew me away. This is a tale not of tragedy, but of the amazing strength one woman found in herself she never knew she had. She experienced anguish so severe most of us couldn't even fathom and faced it with such dignity, and strength. She broke free of her captor and sat in the court room every day during his trial, Too many women are victimized sexually and for many, the abuse or rape is enough to extinguish the fire in their souls and they become vacant, empty zombies. I believe ALL women should read this story, she helps us to realize that no matter what, as a woman, we are so much stronger than we could ever realize, and to NEVER let us be defeated by life's circumstances. The only way to be is as a fighter. This book could prove therapeutic to other women who have experienced such horror. I highly recommend this book and I am so glad that I bought it!!

I was at a conference for work and I heard Debra Puglisi Sharp speak. There were over 2,000 people at this conference, and it was immediately clear that Debra had commanded all of their attention immediately. Her story is one of tragic beginnings but of inspirational endings. I applaud

Debra for her strength and her perseverance, and I can only pray that if I am ever faced with a situation like hers I can show the amount of bravery that she did. I have recommended this book to many of my friends and my work colleagues (I work as a first responder).

I remember when this happened. I know several characters in Debbie's life so it was interesting to read about them in her story. I was not aware they were part of her life. Debbie you are a strong woman. Thank you for sharing your story. I'm am so sorry it happened, it is real. I wish you and your family much happiness

Not since A Rip in Heaven: A Memoir of Murder And Its Aftermath have I read such a devastating account of fate. I have built up a pretty thick skin over the years from reading tons of tough to deal with non-fiction, but for countless pages in the first half of this book, I had to control my tears, especially since I read mostly outside my home. The gregarious tone, the thorough substance and the way the book is perfectly organized elevates this volume into the stratosphere. It takes a special type of person to write a book this amazing, a rare gift. ... When a bullet is fired, even though fired towards the sky, nobody knows where that bullet might fall and who it will harm, dismiss what ?, walls are illusions of ego.

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