

Ladies, Being Aloof Can Cause Grave Consequences

As you slowly awaken, you are wondering, "why is this mask on my face?" I need to get this thing off so I can see where I am. Your mouth is in pain and panic begins to creep in because you can't move your arms. As your vision begins to clear, you see a lady in a white uniform. You question her as to why she is in your home. She instructs you to relax and take it easy; that someone will speak to you soon.

You stare at her confused and ask yourself—"who does this lady think I am? Who does she think she's talking to? What does she mean, 'someone will talk to me soon?' She had better give me some answers, quick, or we are going to be at war!"

You are totally bewildered as you try to assess what is going on. Just then, a middle aged man comes over to speak to you. He is dressed in a suit and tie; there's a name tag on his lapel. You focus on that tag and try to discern what it says. As your vision clears, you notice, "Dr. Davis". "Doctor?"—you muse.

"First the lady in the white uniform, now a doctor; what is happening?"

Dr. Davis begins to tell you of your injuries, sustained from aggravated rape and a subsequent terrible beating, which cast you in 72 stitches, which was required to put your face back together from the lamp your attacker hit you with, and the broken upper and lower jaw received from repeated punches to your skull.

The doctor also informs you why you can't move your arm—it was fractured in three places when you attempted to stop your attacker's vicious kicks to your body.

Now, it's all beginning to slowly come back to you.

The horror of the night before!

You remember how nice the date had been; your girlfriend said she had known your date for years. She told you how respected he was at work, how well mannered he carried himself...why, he even assisted in working with handicapped youth at the local community center. He seemed to be everything you were looking for. Now, you're asking yourself—"where did it go wrong? How come I couldn't see it coming? Why didn't I recognize the signs?"

A woman is raped approximately every 45 seconds; 1 in 3 females are sexually abused before the age of 18. There are about 60,000 rapes per month; 2,000 rapes per day; 81 per hour; 1.6 per minute. Eighty-five percent of all rape goes unreported and 78 percent are committed by someone known to the victim!

Six out of 10 rapes are reported to have occurred in the home of the victim or the home of a friend, neighbor, or relative. Seventy percent of all sexual assaults are planned; 97 percent of all sexual offenders are male; 66 percent are white; 29 percent are black, and 5 percent are other races.

Twenty-nine percent of all forcible rape occurred when the victim was under 11 years old and 87 percent of victims of sexual assault are females. Thirty-five percent of rape takes place in a public area or a parking garage, and last but not least, only 2 percent of rapists are ever convicted and imprisoned!

Many of these assaults can be prevented if not avoided altogether by knowing the intellect of rapists, identifying what they look for, and having a small number of practical, effective procedures that can be employed once a female finds herself caught in this adversity.

You think back to the night before and try to piece together how you could have avoided this violent



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encounter. Were there signs that you did not see, or perhaps did not want to see? Did you ignore what should have been obvious danger signals? How many indicators were right before your eyes that you overlooked?

As the rape intervention expert debriefs you, you decide to pose these questions to her; her answers are astounding. She explains that there are about 10 “red flags” usually present and these signs should have put you on the extreme defensive. We will call them “Beware Signals”. The following are some of these indicators:

- Men that are too confident, (“I know you will go out with me.”)
- Men that are too sharing (“whatever is mine is yours.”)
- Gives too much and asks for too much information (“I want to know everything about you.”)
- Wants in-depth discussion (“We can talk all night; tell me your whole life story.”; “I want to know everything.”)
- Defines you; (“I can tell you everything about yourself; I just feel I know you so well.”)
- Has a problem with the word, “No.” (“It’s alright; we have time,” or, “I won’t make you late; stay a few more minutes; please let me come in,” or, “Will you please have dinner with me again tomorrow?”)
- Makes unbelievable promises (“I will give you the best night of your life.”)
- Has so much in common with you (“You and I are so much alike!”)
- Makes himself too comfortable around you (“Your place feels like home.”)
- Understands you (“I understand you better than anyone else; I feel I really know you well.”)

You think to yourself—“all of these warning signs were present in one form or another.”

Along with these “Signals”, there are physical indica-

tors the attacker looks for in his potential prey:

- Long hair; they want something they can grab and pull.
- Clothing that can be pulled off or cut off easily.
- Preoccupied women; applying makeup on at the stop-light; on the cell phone; searching through their purse; walking with earphones listening to the radio.
- Women with weak, fearful demeanor, who look as though they are afraid of their own shadows.
- Women in isolated areas who have not prepared for threats of any kind.
- Women that are not equipped or prepared to put up a fight.
- Submissive women who look like they lack confidence and will do what they’re told.

Most rape occurs outdoors in secondary locations that the victim has been moved to. Women are most prone when “getting into and exiting” their vehicles. Most abductions that occur prior to the actual rape take place in grocery store or mall parking lots, in office building parking structures, or when they are followed to public restrooms.

Most attacks occur early—from 5 to 9 a.m. Only about 7 percent of attackers carry weapons and in nine of 10 instances, the rapists will try to relocate the victim to a safer location where he can work undisturbed.

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