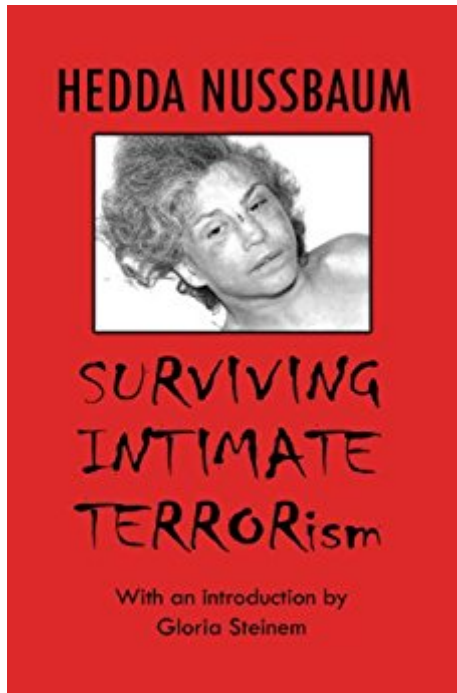




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# Surviving Intimate Terrorism



## Synopsis

Hedda Nussbaum, battered and bruised after years of domestic torture by her live-in partner, Joel Steinberg, was abruptly thrown into the public spotlight in November 1987 after Steinberg assaulted and killed their daughter, Lisa. This book tells the painful story of Hedda's 12 years with Steinberg, how she went from quiet book editor to notorious battered woman blamed for her daughter's death because she didn't get out soon enough. But, as the title suggests, Hedda not only survived the double abuse, but grew strong in the process and went on to become an advocate for other battered women - writing and speaking, teaching women how to stay out of and/or to survive intimate terrorism. In her Prologue, Ms. Nussbaum states the book's primary purpose: "I pray that my story be an inspiration to women to see the truth before it's too late and to use their inner strength to save their own lives and those of their children. If this book saves just one child or one mother, I will be content. If it saves even more, I will be fulfilled." Ms. Nussbaum is a former senior editor at Random House and the author of the children's books *Plants Do Amazing Things* and *Animals Build Amazing Homes*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It's kind of hard to say you 'loved' a book that deals with this subject matter. But the story Hedda told was honest, plain, and straight forward. At first it seems unimaginable how someone can sit idly by while their child is being abused. However, starting from the beginning and explaining the downfall and progression of her own abuse, Hedda makes a striking case for her mental state at the time. Anyone who's living through domestic abuse, and staying because they think 'At least the kids are safe' please remember that that's exactly what she thought.

Fascinating book. I had heard of the case, but didn't know much about it. She was very upfront about her life with him. I enjoyed learning about the other side of the case. I would recommend it.

I remember when this case was happening, the media frenzy and the "hang them" attitude. Our opinions changed when we saw the pictures of Hedda Nussbaum. If you were like me you wondered; how could she allow this to go on. We knew there was more to the story just by looking at Hedda's battered face. While I am not sure I believe all the info Ms. Nussbaum relates is accurate, I do believe she relates her tale to the best of her ability considering the mental condition she was in at the time of the events. I have empathy for Ms. Nussbaum, however I have compassion for Lisa who was dependent on these two adults for her life and well-being. It is understood the book is about Hedda Nussbaum but I do feel sometimes Lisa is overshadowed in the tale. The mere fact that Hedda is still here, and Lisa is not, tells us who the ultimate victim is here....Lisa. All that said this is an engrossing compilation of Hedda's story of the descent of a self-reliant professional woman into the role of battered woman, victim and compliant although unintentional partner in the abuse and ultimate death of a little girl. Ms. Nussbaum shows us that no person is immune from abuse. I feel it needs another run through by an editor as I did see some spelling and punctuation errors.

I have had an ongoing fascination w/ Hedda's story. She has been through Hell & is truly an inspiration to someone like me, who has had a similar, although not as severe, experience.

you'd think a former pro editor would know enough to employ a ghost writer or really patient editor. i can't get past the purile self-serving teen romance tale of her dating parade and worse her sex life.

gag..... if maturely done...with insight ...it might become palatable And even relevant...its horrifying to here details of naked joel in action knowing what he did to lisa.i did have sympathy for Hedda before ....this book makes her lack of true remorse apparent ... a chillingly soulless account.poor poor lisa

I'm an RN, so I know about abuse & am sympathetic to those who live that life....BUT, there are so many things that Hedda blames this on that it is unbelievable. I truly think she had more control over the situation. I'm truly sorry for her physical abused & the death of her daughter though. Writing could have used a prof reader also.

For those who gave this book a negative review - rather, for those who gave the AUTHOR a negative review - I must strongly disagree. Apparently those reviewers have been fortunate enough never to have been in a domestic violence relationship. I have, and I can understand and sympathize with Hedda Nussbaum. Abusive men are persistent and often clever. They trap the woman into a hopeless situation. Because she loves the man, she believes his lies that she is at fault; so she tries to do better. But she can't because the abuser will continue to find fault with her; and, like Joel Steinberg, will even invent faults if there are no real ones to use as weapons.To me this is a very honest book, showing the author's deep love for her children and her pain upon losing them. Some reviewers called Ms. Nussbaum a liar. I believe the opposite. She admits to her shortcomings as well as to both using and selling drugs. Some reviewers called Ms. Nussbaum a murderer. It is very clear that she is NOT a murderer. She, like her daughter, was a helpless victim of an evil man. He brainwashed her and deluded her into being a mere automaton.One of the lessons to learn from this book is that a woman can escape the control of such a man.

Unfortunately, in this case a child had to die before that occurred. But once out, Ms. Nussbaum took control of her life, decided to help other abused women and pursued that end religiously. I congratulate Ms. Nussbaum on an excellent book that was a personal inspiration to me to better my own life.

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