

## Why Does She Stay?

### Behind Enemy Lines

She's a domestic violence survivor a regular hospital patient  
He swears that it was an accident, she claims it was blatant  
Those who think that they know him will of course have their doubts  
And the ones who believe her will quickly point out  
That it's happened so many times and he hasn't changed yet  
If she doesn't just leave him she deserves what she gets  
She'll get no support from those who don't understand  
Why she would stay with such an abusive man  
Why doesn't she leave?  
Why does she stay in an abusive situation, where he's made her his prisoner  
And the acts of violence get worse every day?  
Many women lose their support systems  
Once the batterer has isolated her and no one will listen  
To her plea for help, her cries of despair  
And when the incident is over he always swears  
That he knows there's a problem and he's going to get help  
Not for her but for himself  
Shifting the focus to his pain and away from hers  
Convincing her that it's not just his problem but both of theirs  
So he needs her support and for her to remain  
Because he really is trying and he's going to change  
So she remains in an abusive situation  
And lives with fear and intimidation  
And the familiar words of regret and repeated apologies  
The psychological battering and sexual abuse  
And the promise of reprisal if she ever leaves  
Each day there's a new bruise that she manages to hide  
Sometimes it's denial and sometimes it's pride  
She really doesn't want to live life this way  
But there are countless reasons why she might stay  
Maybe it's low self-esteem  
No self-respect  
Maybe it's her children that she's trying to protect  
Maybe it's financial security, having a home  
Having to make it out on her own  
Maybe she sees it as normal from her childhood abuse  
Maybe she's tired of fighting so what's the use  
Maybe the police who were called doubted her statement  
Or maybe she loves him and is trying to be patient  
He'll never run out of excuses for his continued assault  
He'll rationalize his abuse and how it's really her fault  
If she'd only obey him and be a better wife  
If he didn't have all of these pressures in his job or his life  
It's not because stress has taken it's toll  
But because he's seeking obedience, dominance and power  
And he knows that his abuse gets him control  
And if it gets him what he wants then he'll do it again  
The single greatest cause of injury to women is by abusive men  
Thousands of women are murdered by their partners every year  
Is it so hard to understand why she stays and lives in fear?