

Murder, Gender and the Media

Narratives of Dangerous Love

Jane Monckton-Smith

*Senior Lecturer, Department of Natural and Social Sciences,
Gloucestershire University, UK*

palgrave
macmillan

Contents

<i>List of Tables</i>	x
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
1 Love and Intimate Partner Femicide	1
Introduction	1
Murder	2
Forensic narratives	4
Domestic homicide reviews	5
Criminal justice and intimate partner abuse	6
Coercive control	9
Victim voice	10
Organization of the book	11
2 The Problem of Intimate Partner Abuse	16
Introduction	16
Children and intimate partner abuse	18
Intimate partner abuse as a global issue	20
Cultural differences	24
Gendered subjectivity and gender symmetry	26
3 The Problem of Intimate Partner Femicide	31
Intimate partner femicide as a global issue	31
Domestic homicide reviews	33
The UK Homicide Service	34
Assessing risk	35
Gendered subjectivities and intimate partner femicide	39
4 Romantic Love and Violence	43
The problem with romantic love	43
Heteronormativity, love and marriage	44
Doing romantic love	45
The rhetoric of romance	47
Romantic love, marriage and violence	49
The joint marital narrative	52
Violence and abuse as a positive force	58

5 News Reporting of Intimate Partner Abuse and Intimate Partner Femicide	62
News reporting	62
News values	65
The rhetoric of intimate partner abuse in the news	67
A journalists' code of practice when reporting on violence against women	70
6 Case Studies and Factor Analysis	72
Introduction	72
The forensic narrative	73
Discourse	74
Factor analysis	77
Age and age difference	77
Level of violence	78
History of violence	81
Multiple victims	82
Estrangement or its threat	82
Love and criminal justice outcome	83
Narrative strands	85
7 Narratives of Intimate Partner Femicide with Love	86
Introduction	86
Tough love	87
Jealous love	97
Suicidal love	103
Pathological love	113
8 Narratives of Intimate Partner Femicide without Love	119
Absence of love	119
Jealous rage	122
Suicidal/lack of love	124
Pathological love/hate	125
9 Forensic Narratives, Love and Homicide	136
Conclusions	136
Findings	140
Love and damaging narrative conventions	150
Victim blaming	151
Blaming outside influences like alcohol for violence	151
An assumption that women lie about abuse	151

Representing the killers as unusual and failing to acknowledge intimate partner femicide as a stable form of homicide	152
Excusing male violence	152
Reporting violence as an output of love	153
Showing empathy with the killer's distress	153
The importance of the victim's voice	153
<i>Appendix 1 A Personal Account of the Murders of Julia and Will Pemberton and the Subsequent Domestic Homicide Review</i>	157
<i>Appendix 2 Case Studies Used</i>	173
<i>References</i>	175
<i>Index</i>	186