

high that clinicians should assume that an act of interpersonal violence will occur at some point. The risk of violence and physical injury is higher for the victims of domestic violence who are stalked by former partners. Other predictors of violence by stalkers are similar to the predictors of violence in other populations, in particular a history of criminal convictions and substance misuse. Interestingly, and perhaps contrary to popular stereotypes, stalking behaviours are less likely to be perpetrated by individuals with a psychotic illness than by those with a non-psychotic mental illness.

Kropp *et al*'s chapter on the management of stalkers adopts a Canadian perspective and applies the principles of risk management using a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary perspective. It is helpful that the authors emphasise the importance of working with victims and view a victim's 'safety planning' as an essential aspect of risk management, as this is an area that is often neglected.

There is no real evidence that psychological therapies are effective in the treatment of stalkers, perhaps because it is not clear what, if anything, is wrong with their psychiatric health. Most discussion in the book about treatment approaches adopts a cognitive-behavioural perspective. It would have been helpful to have included a psychodynamic analysis of stalking behaviours, particularly considering the growing

evidence for a relationship between stalking behaviour and security of attachment, with implications for interventions and risk management.

Other subjects discussed in the book include: erotomania in women, stalking in children and adolescents, aspects of police care and characteristics of stalkers. A minor criticism is that references are provided at the end of each chapter which, given the lack of authoritative research in this area, means that the same names crop up time after time. The overall editing of the book is also lax, with frequent repetitions between the chapters and without any attempt to link or cross-reference across chapters, making the book seem fragmented. Although this volume provides a reasonable introduction to the subject, with some excellent chapters, for the definitive account I would refer the reader to Mullen *et al* (2002), a book that has yet to be bettered.

Mullen, P. E., Pathé, M. & Purcell, R. (2002) *Stalkers and their Victims*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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By Richard Abrams. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2002. 338 pp. £49.50 (hb). ISBN 0 19 514820 7

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