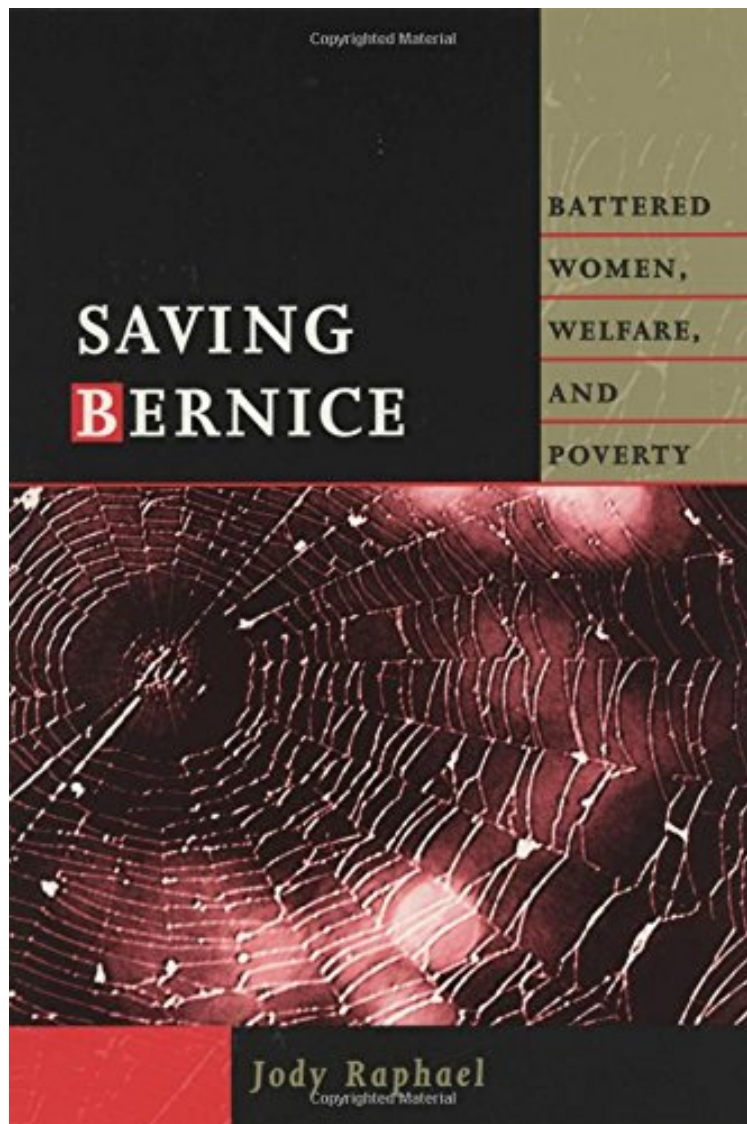


[Mobile book] Saving Bernice: Battered Women, Welfare, and Poverty (Northeastern Series on Gender, Crime, and Law)

Saving Bernice: Battered Women, Welfare, and Poverty (Northeastern Series on Gender, Crime, and Law)

Jody Raphael

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Jody Raphael : Saving Bernice: Battered Women, Welfare, and Poverty (Northeastern Series on Gender, Crime, and Law) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saving Bernice: Battered Women, Welfare, and Poverty (Northeastern Series on Gender, Crime, and Law):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy DarkGodessRun small1 of 1 people found the

following review helpful. A great book!By Elaine M. WilsonAs a criminology and criminal justice major, I purchased this book in order to write a book review for my Violence in America course. "Saving Bernice" is very well-written, and provides a compelling account of one woman's experiences as a victim of domestic violence. The author also suggests that domestic violence is a major contributing factor to exacerbating poverty and dependence on public welfare. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in criminology or social services!1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. worth readingBy NLIt is a great written case study, plus background and analysis of the social problem. It is an easy read on a really hard topic. Contains some horrific accounts. Worth reading to understand certain dynamics, and open up eyes to the world around us.

Skillfully interweaving Bernice's own eloquent words about her harrowing abuse with descriptions of other women's similar experiences and a rich synthesis of statistical findings, Jody Raphael demonstrates convincingly that domestic violence and dependence on public assistance are intricately linked. In a work that is sure to stir controversy, she challenges traditional views and stereotypes (conservative and liberal) about welfare recipients, arguing that many poor women are neither lazy nor paralyzed by a "culture of poverty," but instead are trapped by their batterers. Bernice's ordeals at the hands of her abusive partner -- brutal beatings, violent rapes, threats on her life, stalking, blocked access to birth control, and sabotage of efforts to find a job -- resonate throughout the work. The experiences she relates provide crucial insights into the welfare system and illuminate its failures, successes, and potential in helping women like her. This disquieting yet inspiring book puts a human face on the heated public policy debate over welfare reform. Above all, it is Bernice's life story and, through her voice, the story of countless other battered women who are isolated in poverty and welfare by the power and control of their abusers.

From Library JournalIn this harrowing account of one woman's experiences with poverty and domestic abuse, Raphael, who previously guest-edited *Understanding Women's Poverty*, follows the life of Bernice, a child of a dysfunctional family (her alcoholic father poured gasoline over her 13-year-old brother and threw a match at him, burning him to death). Raphael includes the grisly details of Bernice's life as a battered woman and welfare mother, her frustrations with working through various public agencies, and her eventual triumph over her circumstances. Unfortunately, the writing is uneven, and Raphael's use of quotes from Virginia Woolf's writings at the beginning of every chapter seems a stretch. And though she provides evidence supporting her contention that examining domestic abuse necessarily involves examining the welfare system as a whole, this is not a new idea. Linda G. Mills's *The Heart of Intimate Abuse: New Interventions in Child Welfare, Criminal Justice, and Health Settings* (Springer, 1998) and Ruth A. Brandwein's *Battered Women, Children, and Welfare Reform: The Ties That Bind* (Sage, 1998) are more scholarly and better written (albeit less personal) sources on the subject. Recommended for specialized collections only. DEllen D. Gilbert, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A must-read for everyone who wishes to end not just welfare, but poverty 'as we know it.'" -- Patricia Ireland A must-read for everyone who wishes to end not just welfare, but poverty as we know it. (Patricia Ireland) Saving Bernice illustrates very clearly how family violence keeps many women in poverty and dependent on welfare. Lessons learned from reading this book should guide the crafting of solutions to help women move from welfare to work without risking their safety. (Ann Richards)