

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-73241-3 - Stalkers and Their Victims, Second Edition
Paul E. Mullen, Michele Pathe and Rosemary Purcell
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Stalkers and Their Victims

Second Edition

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Contents

Preface	<i>page</i> vii
Acknowledgements	ix
1. Stalking: a problem behaviour	1
2. Stalking as a social construction and social reality	11
3. The epidemiology of stalking	22
4. The victims of stalkers	35
5. Stalking typologies and classifications	58
6. The rejected stalker and the resentful stalker	69
7. The intimacy seeker and the incompetent suitor	82
8. The erotomanias and the morbid infatuations	92
9. The predatory stalker	110
10. Stalking among juveniles	124
11. Female stalkers	136
12. Same-gender stalking	141
13. Cyberstalking	152
14. Stalking by proxy	157
15. The law as the stalker’s agent	164
16. Stalking in the workplace	172
17. Stalking of health professionals	184

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

18.	Stalking celebrities and other public figures	197
19.	False victims of stalking	209
20.	Evaluating and managing risk in the stalking situation	226
21.	The therapeutic approach to the stalker	251
22.	Reducing the impact of stalking on victims	262
23.	Defining and prosecuting the offence of stalking	282
	<i>Appendix: Victim services</i>	295
	<i>References</i>	297
	<i>Index</i>	313

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[More information](#)

Preface

Since the first edition of this book was published in 2000 there has been an explosion in the information available about stalking, and several hundred new studies are referenced in this second edition. In the scientific literature, studies have tended to focus on the nature and prevalence of this problem behaviour, as well as on risk assessment and management. The advances in knowledge about the management and protection of victims have also been considerable. Far less progress has occurred in the management of stalkers. The stalker continues to attract the attention of mental health professionals mainly as an object for risk assessment technologies rather than as a potential patient. This is unfortunate, for though not all stalkers are amenable to treatment some are, and their treatment may provide the most effective long-term relief for the victim.

This is a book written by clinicians with an interest in research. We all spend part of our working week with stalkers and their victims. Michele Pathé now works mainly with victims but also with the most troubling group of stalkers, those found among predatory sex offenders. Rosie Purcell has a special interest in stalking within institutional settings like universities and companies. Paul Mullen sees a range of stalkers referred from courts and other mental health services. Both Michele Pathé and Paul Mullen have had the opportunity to work with David James and colleagues in the UK on the stalking of royalty and prominent politicians. These experiences influence and shape the approach in this book. We have attempted to provide a clinical, and ultimately a practical, account of a problem behaviour and its impact on both the victims

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

viii **Preface**

and the perpetrators. The systematic studies and theoretical accounts provided by other workers in the field, as well as our own research, form the basic material for the book. The manner in which this information is analysed and understood is, however, through our perspective as clinicians concerned both for stalkers and for their victims.

In keeping with our clinical bias, regular use is made of case vignettes. These accounts, all from our own clinical practice unless otherwise specified, have been

anonymised by changing names and non-essential features, and sometimes aspects from similar cases have been combined.

Our hope is that the book will provide a clear and accessible account which does justice to the complexities of the social, criminal justice, psychological and psychopathological factors in stalking situations.

We hope we have succeeded in conveying some of our fascination with the stalking situation and our concern for the victims of this all too common behaviour.

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Marina Perkovich is a Melbourne-based artist who was born in Croatia. The cover artwork is part of a series entitled *Inside the Sick House*, which deals with both her experiences as a social worker and her stalking victimisation. Images of her home environment and photographs of custody settings in which she worked are collaged together to create a mysterious world full of foreboding. Marina is currently studying textile design.