# **BONSHEÁ** Making Light of the Dark

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"A victim's first scream is for help; a victim's second scream is for justice."

#### An Oregon Story

A startling memoir of one woman escaping an abusive marriage and oppressive religious cults [People of Praise] and trying to find "justice" in a failed system.

Anyone concerned with issues of abuse and injustice in America should read this book.

### A Memoir by *Coral Anika Theill*

This is a personal story of childhood sexual abuse, twenty years of marital abuse – mental and physical, condoned within some of the fundamental, evangelical Christian movements (cults) that thrive today. My story is also about injustice, the failings of the Oregon court system, and the stigma associated with depression and post traumatic stress.

The price for my own safety and freedom in 1996 was an imposed, unnatural and unwanted separation from my eight children. The injustice committed against me is not just the physical separation from my children, but the willful desecration of the mother-child relationship and bond, a sacred spiritual and emotional entity.

Forcibly taking a mother's children, and then controlling her emotionally by withholding contact must be publicly recognized as one of the greatest forms of 'mis-use' of the American justice system and one of the greatest hidden vehicles for wide-spread socially approved physical and emotional abuse and control.

BONSHEÁ Making Light of the Dark shares my search for freedom and light in a society based on patriarchal religion and laws. It openly speaks about the ideas and beliefs in our society which foster sexism, racism, the denigration of human rights and the intolerance of difference.

## **BONSHEA** Making Light of the Dark

by Coral Anika Theill

"I would love to discover that every judge, every minister, every person who seeks justice, is reading this book! I have consulted with thousands of abused women and know that the injustice Coral suffered, the loss of her children, is an all too common experience of abused women seeking to protect their children and save themselves."

- Patricia Evans, Author, The Verbally Abusive Relationship, California

"BONSHEÁ pierces through the darkness that hides the legal system's routine abuse of mothers and children. Not a single particle of the wisdom Coral shares misses the mark." - Maureen T. Hannah, Ph.D., Chair, Battered Mother's Custody Conference, Albany, New York

"BONSHEÁ illustrates the degree to which the legal system can also be used as a vehicle to further perpetuate abuse even after the victim has chosen to take a stand against the abuse." *– John Haroldson*, District Attorney, Benton County District Attorney, Corvallis, Oregon

"I recommend this book for health care providers, those in the criminal justice system, and volunteers or helpers of any kind to get insights and clarity about the complex dynamics of domestic violence and its toxic effects to individuals and society---and what needs to be done to eradicate this pandemic problem."

- Barbara A. May, PhD, RN, Professor Emerita of Nursing, Linfield College, Portland, Oregon

"Every so often a book is written that touches the heart. This is such a book. *BONSHEÁ* is an unforgettable story that will leave an indelible mark on your psyche. This is a story of an incredible journey of escape from bondage. Coral Theill's struggles and successes are heartrending as she reveals her attempts to build a new life–a story of courage and fortitude." -Addie Archer, Washington



**Coral Anika Theill**'s published works address abuse, trauma recovery and healing from post-traumatic stress and most recently, wounded Marines and Montford Point Marines. Her writings have encouraged and inspired numerous trauma victims and wounded Marines and service members recovering from PTS and TBI. Coral's positive insights as a survivor have also earned the respect of clinical therapists, advocates, attorneys, professors and authors. www.coralanikatheill.com

#### TO ORDER: BONSHEA Making Light of the Dark

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