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Extra Credit

Why I wrote a book with my rapist

After watching both videos, my first reaction was confused. First of all, since the two videos did not describe Thordis Elva's specific description after being raped but focused on her mental journey over the years and the purpose of writing the book, I do not know whether Tom Stranger has been punished by the criminal law. The reason I am paying attention to this is because, in the video *Why I wrote a book with my rapist*, I do not see Tom Stranger feeling guilty or realizing his own mistakes at all.

I have great sympathy for what happened to Thordis Elva and think Tom Stranger's actions are absolutely wrong, but I find it funny and absurd that Thordis Elva tried to write an email to Tom Stranger to seriously discuss the essential reasons and motivations of Tom Stranger's decision in the first place, because the reason is obvious: Tom Stranger wants to have sex with her because of her beauty. I think an adult with normal intelligence is capable enough to draw this conclusion.

Back to my confusion, I think Tom Stranger must be punished because just as the retributivism says, punishment aims at, and is justified by, giving people what they deserve. Tom Stranger raped Thordis Elva, so he deserves to go to prison.

Tom Stranger mentions that he wants to get the forgiveness through this book and media reports.

However, his wish is not because he really realizes his mistake, but his normal life is affected. I think

his attitude has proved the necessity of punishment.

On the other hand, Thordis Elva wants to encourage more people who have had the same experience to have the courage to speak up for themselves, and she hopes that society will not simply pay attention to the psychology of the victims, because they have been tortured. In my opinion, it is more important for the society to not let the victims be disturbed too much and at the same time to let the incident itself get attention; therefore, focusing on the perpetrator is a better solution.

As much as I admire Thordis Elva for speaking out and feel sorry for what happened to her, I think some of her actions may not have had much of an impact. But we should still encourage her behavior. Because it is difficult for people who make mistakes to actively realize their mistakes without the interference of other factors. Besides, I think Thordis Elva and Tom Stranger's story also show that it is necessary for us to obey the law, because we will benefit from a cooperative endeavor.

Reference

"The Duty to Obey the Law" Carmen.

"What Is The Criminal Law For?" Carmen.

"Why I wrote a book with my rapist" *YouTube*, uploaded by BBC Newsnight, 10 March 2017,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0hMfplRB-g>

"Our story of rape and reconciliation" *YouTube*, uploaded by TED, 13 February 2017,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyPoqFcvt9w>