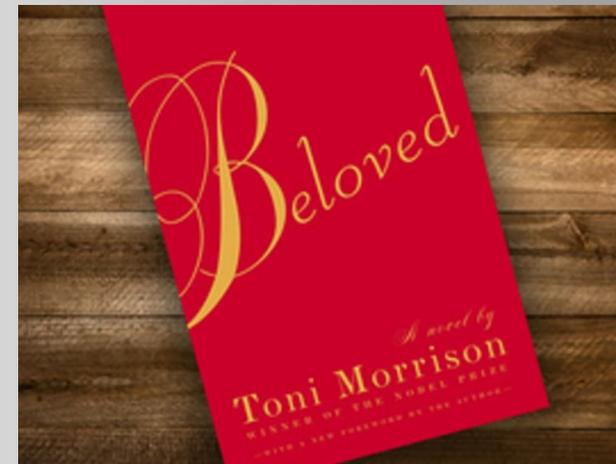


Take Back the Night and Beloved

By: Alyssa Chastain

Works Cited

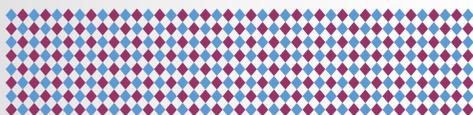
- Take Back the Night Foundation <https://takebackthenight.org/about-us/>
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center –Statistics <https://www.nsvrc.org/statistics#:~:text=The%20self%2Dreported%20incidence%20of,the%20United%20States%20in%202018.>
- Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. Vintage Books, 1987.



Take Back the Night Foundation

- » Began in the 1960s in Belgium and England with women protesting not feeling safe to walk down the road at night alone
- » In the 1970s, the movement made it to America in University of Southern Florida campus where women protested dressed as witches for a women’s center, Philadelphia where women protested a murder, and San Francisco where women protested porn and violence
- » In 2001, Katie Koestner, the first woman in the US to speak out nationally and publicly on being the victim of campus “date” rape joined forces with TBTN to provide resources, funding, and healing to as many communities as possible world wide
- » Today, many college and university campuses hold TBTN walks where students can come together and walk around campus listening to statistics and stories of survivors and services are offered to those who might need or want them

“Our mission as a charitable 501(c)3 Foundation is to create safe communities and respectful relationships through awareness events and initiatives. We seek to end sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual abuse, and all forms of sexual violence.”



The TBTN walk that I attended had us carry candles to light the dark and show that no one is alone.



The connection that I saw between *Beloved* and current issues was the outstanding amount of sexual abuse and violence towards the women. We see Sethe, Baby Suggs, Ella, and Sethe’s mother all had stories of the abuse they endured during the book. A serious issue that all women face today is the threat of sexual assault and violence. Most women will experience these crimes and not report it. It has long lasting affects that can ruin lives. The characters in *Beloved* represent many women who survived and were strong enough to form a community of safety and healing.

Passages from *Beloved* that provide evidence of the sexual abuse the characters underwent

P.12 “A year of yearning, when rape seemed the solitary gift of life.”

P.13 “All in their twenties, minus women, fucking cows, dreaming of rape, thrashing on pallets, rubbing their thighs, and waiting for the new girl...”

P.20 “ They took my milk.”

P.28 “To make up for coupling with a straw boss for four months in exchange for keeping her third child...only to have him traded for lumber in the spring of the next year and to find herself pregnant by the man who promised not to and did.”

P.74 “She told Sethe that her mother and Nan were together from the sea. Both were taken up many times by the crew. ‘She threw them all away but you. The one from the crew she threw away on the island. The others from more whites she also threw away. Without names, she threw them You she gave the name of the black man. She put her arms around him. The others she did not put her arms around. Never. Never.’”

