

# Janine Latus

## Speaker on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

### Topics

- Abuse / Domestic Violence
- Courage / Heroism
- Family / Relationships
- Journalism / Literary / Author
- Overcoming Adversity
- Women's Health & Issues

### About Janine Latus

**Janine Latus** is a dynamic and [engaging speaker](#) on the spectrum of sexual assault and intimate partner violence. She has told her story to hundreds of audiences, from the United States military to universities, high schools and corporations, including Major League Baseball, and she leaves audiences haunted by her insights. She has helped shelters and social service agencies raise hundreds of thousands of dollars, has helped corporations create a safer environment by teaching them how to recognize the symptoms of abuse, and has served as part of a team intent on improving the climate within military structures.

Janine is the author of the international bestseller *If I Am Missing or Dead: a sister's story of love, murder and liberation*, and she uses her own heart-breaking story to illustrate the insidious signs of abuse, to help audience members recognize them in their own lives and in those of the people around them, to intervene or ask for help, to break free or help others to do so, and then to build a life of respect and freedom from fear. Her talks are part story, part strategy, based on the Duluth Power & Control Wheel and full of practical action items. But because they are built on a story, they resonate long after everyone has left the session room.

### Select Keynotes

- **A Call to Break the Cycle of Abuse**

Ms. Latus tells her own family's tragic story while subtly illustrating the red flags of abuse as depicted by the Duluth Power & Control Wheel. Audience members learn to recognize abuse in their own lives and the lives of the people around them, intervene effectively and break free and thrive.

- **A Corporate Keynote: Standing Firm**

Partner abuse creates tremendous problems in the work place. Abusers often delay or prevent their partners from getting to work, which is a classic assertion of power and control. According to the Centers for Disease Control, victims nationwide lose eight million paid days of work every year, costing companies \$727.8 million in lost productivity. They're distracted, often by incessant texts and phone calls as their partner monitors their every move. They're scared. They're tired from being up all night with that finger jabbing them in the chest. Or they call in sick, to hide the bruises.

There's also the risk that the violence will spill over into the work place. We know that 54% of mass shootings begin or end with the death of the loved ones of the shooter. That means that every employer runs the risk of having violence follow someone into the office, the shop, the lecture hall, the class room. Of all multiple-injury shootings, 86% took place in work environments, whether offices, schools, universities, government offices, healthcare facilities and houses of worship.

Janine's goal is to bring her message to as many workplaces as possible, to help people understand the red flags of abuse, to safely escape if they are stuck in an abusive relationship, to intervene if a friend or co-worker is, and to create work spaces and systems where employees can focus on the job at hand.

- **Healthy vs Toxic Love**



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Jealousy is not love, controlling is not love, high-drama scrambles to keep someone's approval is not love. Learn the red flags for abuse, whether emotional, sexual or physical.

- **I Am Why**

Are your frontline workers burned out? Do you want your donors to dig deeper? In her I Am Why presentation, Ms. Latus tells a story so compelling that it reminds audience members why they do the hard work they do. Audience members will leave appreciated and recharged.

- **Making a Story Sing**

Whether in business or personal life, the ability to make a story reverberate long after it's told is vital and fun. Let Latus talk to your group about choosing telling details and choosing the perfect verb. Change how you communicate and you'll change customers' impression of your business.

- **Reinventing your life**

Perhaps you're cocooned in comfort, but also sleep walking. What does it mean to let go of everything and reinvent your life from the ground up? Ms. Latus sold her home and spent a year as a nomad, house-sitting around the country to answer the question, if you can live anywhere, how do you choose?

- **We Need to Talk**

Find the courage to tell your stories so that other people have permission to tell theirs, because silence kills. The idea that what happens in the home should stay in the home leaves people isolated as they try to identify and escape from abuse, and the belief that a victim of sexual assault should feel shame leaves rapists free to rape again. By telling our stories we empower those who follow our lead.

This is important for corporations, because employees are less productive if they're afraid at home and because home violence sometimes spills into the workplace. It is important for universities because students are at an age when they're statistically more likely to suffer abuse, but they're also in a sweet spot where the right message can change their trajectory. And it is important for shelters and social service agencies, because our stories create compassion and empathy, and increase donations.

## Select Book Titles

- **2007:** If I Am Missing or Dead: A Sister's Story of Love, Murder, and Liberation

## Select Articles

- [What It's Like: Being in an Abusive Relationship](#)
- [Time to Speak Up for Women](#)

## Select Testimonials

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Author, speaker and domestic violence advocate, Janine Latus, knows how to tell a story and captivate an audience. She received a standing ovation moving many to tears. The audience clearly identified with Janine, realizing the serious nature of our organization's work and as a result, were highly motivated to give. Within the window of a 1-hour luncheon program, Janine helped Interface raise an additional \$25,000 for a net total of \$80,000. These proceeds are vital to our ability to intervene when crisis occurs and prevent abuse from occurring in the first place including 24-hour crisis response and shelter programs, sexual abuse and teen dating violence prevention programs.

— Catherine L. Kort, Fund Development & Marketing Director, Interface Children & Family Services Camarillo, CA

Janine is an incredible speaker with a story that captivated a room of nearly 900 professional women at our annual Women Who Care Share Luncheon. You could hear a pin drop in the room as guests were transfixed by her emotional story. She helped us raise over \$130,000 for the services we provide to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Her real life stories highlight the importance of services and community support for victims. After the event, many guests stopped to purchase a book and share their story or gratitude with Janine. She truly touched the lives of our guests, we are so grateful for her courage to stand up and share her story.

— Catherine Salazar | Marketing Coordinator, YWCA Oklahoma City

Latus's presentation involved the telling of this difficult story with a mastery of timing, tension, and perspicacity. She revealed that

victimization is often characterized by a lack of awareness of what is, and what is not, acceptable behavior in relationships. Through her narrative, she expressed how important it is to establish boundaries so one does not find themselves in the depths of an abusive or violent relationship. She also presented the "Power of Control Wheel," a guide used by the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence to help a person recognize the signs that reveal offensive behavior, whether it's emotional, physical, sexual, or financial in nature. Following her presentation, Latus took questions, answering each one with expertise and clarity, giving insights that were to the benefit of anyone wishing to help stem the very serious problem of abuse.

— *Claire Koehler and Barbara Gile AAUW Program Co-Vice Presidents*

Janine Latus is a powerful activist who brought her story and advocacy to the University of South Alabama with truth, courage, passion, and a strong voice to help give a phenomenal talk as part of V-Day 2019. The audience responded deeply to her message, with many staying after the program to speak directly with Janine. We are thankful for her work and her visit to USA.

— *Dr. Krista Harrell Associate Dean of Students and Title IX Coordinator, University of South Alabama*

Janine Latus delivers a powerful, sobering, yet inspirational keynote address. Her audience was riveted, hanging on her every word. I am so thankful she has shared her and her sister's tragic story so she can help and offer hope to other women and children.

— *Erica Hallock, Board Member, YWCA, Spokane, WA*

We could not have chosen a better or more significant keynote presenter for our women's and gender studies conference with an audience of students, faculty, community members and activists. Janine Latus uses the narrative of her own life and family losses to help other women and girls understand how intimate partner abuse can happen to anyone. She has the ability to engross her audience with an engaging yet candid style of delivery that ranks her as a first-class story and truth-teller. The question and answer period made it clear exactly how much impact she had on the young women who heard her and connected with her message. Later a medical doctor in the audience told me she planned to purchase a case of Janine's book to hand to her patients.

— *Helen R. Klebesadel, Director, Women's and Gender Studies Consortium Co-Chair 2018 4W Summit*

Janine was the keynote speaker for our annual Tribute to Women of Achievement event, and she was heart stopping. You could have heard a pin drop during her presentation as she had us all on the edge of our seats. Although her story is chilling, it is also very real and a powerful reminder that domestic violence lives among so many of us. Janine is an amazing speaker and one our audience won't soon forget.

— *Jaye Kennedy, Chief Executive Office, Cedar Rapids, IA*

Janine Latus is an incredibly powerful speaker on the topic of domestic violence and sexual assault – not only in how she shares her story of survival and the loss of her sister, but in how she addresses the need for cultural change, as well. We need an open dialogue in order for this paradigm shift, and with Janine at the helm, I'm confident our society will finally address these issues.

— *Lana Blitstein, M.S.W. Domestic Violence Community Outreach Advocate, Pillars Community Health*

I just wanted to let you know that the impact of your talk has been reverberating like a stone thrown into a pond. The splash was fantastic enough itself, but the ripples have been sobering and hopeful all at once. I have received calls from attendees, one after the next, who want to help a friend, or a good friend's sister or a sister's good friend....We have been putting informational packets together not for clients—those, of course we have—but for the concerned loved ones who are tired of standing back shaking their heads and worrying, who heard the clarion call and feel inspired and empowered to do something to help. It's very touching. Your story sparked it in a big way. Thank you for mobilizing community members who feel helpless, as well as who knows how many actual victims in the audience.

— *Melissa Lukin, MBA, Executive Director, Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA) San Mateo, California*

If you haven't seen Janine Latus' Presentation "If I am Missing or Dead, a story of Love, Murder & Liberation" you need to. 1/3 women, 1/4 men will or have experienced Domestic Violence. Janine's compelling life story puts a face on these statistics. You'll be reminded, KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

— *Rita Bailey, Executive Director, Darien Domestic Abuse Council, Inc.*

Even a month after she spoke at our event, her words still resonate in my head. Janine's message is powerful and impactful and opens one's eyes to the battle victims of domestic violence face every day against their abuser.

— Sarah Golden, Chairperson, Women Against Violence, Virginia Beach, VA