

ABSTRACT

ASKING FOR IT

This thesis examines an abusive relationship I had that lasted three and a half years. I've outlined why I was vulnerable to such a relationship—my parents' marriage experiencing serious trouble; a car wreck that temporarily put me in a wheelchair; the rejection of the boyfriend who caused the wreck; and an overall need for love and stability. Craig, the abusive boyfriend, was older, and initially charming and loving. He also came from a devout churchgoing family, which both intimidated and enthralled me because my own family did not attend church. I decided if I could just become a “good Christian woman,” I could have a perfect life and marriage. At first Craig seemed a perfect mate, but then he gradually became very controlling, and ultimately verbally and emotionally abusive. I've attempted to show both why I stayed for so long, and why I eventually left our relationship.

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