

# Riley Carroll Illinois State University

 Fri, 3/13 1:57PM  10:03


## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

women, conviction, monster, pending, girl, survivors, mother, reality, binder, denialism, rapists, parties, metaphors, truth, petals, metaphor, coercive control, beaten, window, call


## SPEAKERS

Riley Carroll


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-  R


Riley Carroll 00:00

Hello, everyone and welcome to our party. Would you like something to drink? Here, this is for you.
-  R


Riley Carroll 00:23

Our name is Beverly, and we are really good at parties. The monster prowled as he stalked the town. He sniffed before descending on buildings. He smashed through windows, plucking girls from their beds, he hid them
-  R

Riley Carroll 00:42

in his firm. This case, Judge, jury, vividly illustrates the denialism that permeates cases of sexual violence. One reason for this denialism is a mistaken idea of what rapists must really look like
-  R

Riley Carroll 01:01

Creepy, uncaring
-  R

Riley Carroll 01:05

wearing their lack of humanity on their sleeve. A girl with flowers sprouting from her chest sat next to me. A cigarette resting between her fingers ash falling to concrete.

R

Riley Carroll 01:20

She stayed silent.

R

Riley Carroll 01:22

Oh, the wind of the coming storm,

R

Riley Carroll 01:26

rustled the leaves overhead.

R

Riley Carroll 01:29

We are here to celebrate us

R

Riley Carroll 01:34

and all our Beverlys. Why? Because we're fucking great.

R

Riley Carroll 01:42

Because we all have stories.

R

Riley Carroll 01:46

These stories are about domestic abuse, intimate terrorism, coercive control. This isn't a show about men's stories, we know it happens to them. But

R

Riley Carroll 01:59

this is a show about women.

R

Riley Carroll 02:02

Some people

R Riley Carroll 02:09  
call us survivors.

R Riley Carroll 02:16  
The Violence Against Women Act is designed to provide advocacy and aid for survivors of gender violence. But CNN of February 15, 2019 reports, following the recent government shutdown, Congress failed to reauthorize this federal law, stripping organizations nationwide of vital funding.

R Riley Carroll 02:36  
Governmental neglect, coupled with groups like the NRA calling the act "a poison pill," delivers a message women know all too well: your safety is not a priority. And it's no wonder when so often acts of violence against women are discussed outside of reality. Expressed through metaphors where victims are delicate flowers and assailants are horrifying monsters.

R Riley Carroll 03:02  
In her 2018 article, "The Ethics of Metaphor," Dr. Rachel Fraser explains. It's natural to conceptualize our world through metaphor, but we fail to realize the impact it has on the actual world around us. Metaphors obscure the gruesome reality of gendered violence. So for the prose, "the Monster Stalks" by Alexander Green and "Down Girl" by Kate Manne, the drama "Smack That" by Rhiannon Faith, the poetry "Lies I Tell" by Sara Borjas, and "Before a Western Storm" by Claire Rymes, an article from Women Count USA.

R Riley Carroll 03:37  
I argue, while metaphors can be healing for survivors, it is our duty to speak louder about the reality that women are beaten, raped, and killed at horrifying rates.

R Riley Carroll 03:53  
A woman has a window in her face. Truth. A window can be a mirror. It can also be a door. Truth. A father has a window. I don't know where it is. True.

R Riley Carroll 04:12

As a girl, my mother slept in a room with no windows and one door. True.

R

Riley Carroll 04:21

Okay, we are going to play "Never Have I Ever" and I'm going to because I'm really good at parties. Do you guys know how to play? Great.

R

Riley Carroll 04:33

Never have I ever

R

Riley Carroll 04:36

gotten really drunk and done something stupid.

R

Riley Carroll 04:41

Okay, I know some of you in this room should be standing right now.

R

Riley Carroll 04:49

Never have I ever been called worthless.

R

Riley Carroll 05:00

Never have I ever been followed everywhere I go.

R

Riley Carroll 05:12

Never have I ever been convinced that this is what a relationship should be like.

R

Riley Carroll 05:26

The Girl with flowers told me she had found the truth in the palm of another's hand until it became disfigured, resembling the talon of a flightless bird.


R

Riley Carroll 05:38

My mother loved peaches. That is the truth. My father could not stand them. Truth.

- R Riley Carroll 05:48  
We often use fruit to describe a bruise like plum, or blackberry. Truth.
- R Riley Carroll 05:56  
My mother's door blackberried. Truth. My mother's window peached. Truth.
- R Riley Carroll 06:03  
The monster brought the
- R Riley Carroll 06:04  
girls to his cave. He kept them in pieces, made sure their bodies became unrecognizable. Arms and legs and toes blended together to make his dinner. Once a girl arrived in his cave,
- R Riley Carroll 06:20  
she would never return home. Monsters
- R Riley Carroll 06:24  
are unintelligible and outwardly frightening. What is particularly frightening
- R Riley Carroll 06:29  
about rapists is their lack of identifying features.
- R Riley Carroll 06:34  
Rapists are human
- R Riley Carroll 06:38  
all too human. The idea of a rapist as a monster exonerates by caricature. I'm really good at parties, so I would like to make a toast to party games!

- R Riley Carroll 06:53  
To cake. To Chris Brown!
- R Riley Carroll 07:00  
Donald Trump, Johnny Depp to
- R Riley Carroll 07:03  
to Harvey.
- R Riley Carroll 07:05  
Everybody knows Harvey.
- R Riley Carroll 07:06  
His name still wins people Oscars. She had felt the chill of a knife up her spine, had come to expect her petals to fall. To 46 countries that have yet
- R Riley Carroll 07:17  
to introduce domestic violence laws and legislation. Petals pooling at her feet.
- R Riley Carroll 07:23  
She had come to know what it was like to drown
- R Riley Carroll 07:26  
went over poured, over served, overworked to years of calls from local women's rights groups to challenge patriarchal structures. She felt the ebb and flow of baby life. Shears poised to cut to finally deciding that you
- R Riley Carroll 07:41  
may be letting women down.

- R Riley Carroll 07:46  
Well, yes, you fucking are. You let me down! You're letting all your
- R Riley Carroll 07:53  
women down! You're letting down all your Beverleys and we are asking you, for fuck's
- R Riley Carroll 07:58  
sake, protect your fucking Beverleys
- R Riley Carroll 08:01  
Like, like Shanda Smith, 34, shot in the throat, conviction pending. Like, like Brandy Leah Mansell, 36, beaten to death, conviction pending. Like Monica Perkins,
- R Riley Carroll 08:13  
61, shot in the legs, hip, arm and chest, conviction pending. Like Stephanie Boley, 24, beaten and thrown, conviction pending. 
- R Riley Carroll 08:22  
Like, an unnamed woman, 33, ran over repeatedly with a truck, conviction pending. Like,
- R Riley Carroll 08:28  
like Cynthia Raiser, 42, pushed in front of of a subway train, conviction unknown. Like,
- R Riley Carroll 08:34  
like Amber Wilson, 27, shot in the face, conviction nothing.
- R Riley Carroll 08:37  
Like Kristen Bennett, 24, body still hasn't been recovered, convicted suspect.
- R Riley Carroll 08:55

In February 2017, Texas nurse, Dawn Wilcox, began counting the number of women killed by men in the United States because no one else was.



Riley Carroll 09:06

This binder contains her list from 2018 alone.



Riley Carroll 09:10

There are 1611 entries.



Riley Carroll 09:15

My transition between binders serves as my personal movement from metaphor



Riley Carroll 09:21

to reality.



Riley Carroll 09:23

These women are not bruised fruit or crushed flowers. They're dead mothers or sisters, daughters of friends killed by real, living men. I urge you to make this transition with me. Find me after the round and asked to read the names in this binder. I also have QR codes available so you can access the list electronically.



Riley Carroll 09:46

We can't bring these women back. But we can honor them through honesty and advocacy here



Riley Carroll 09:55

in this world.