

**Working with traumatized
males, who use violent
behaviors in an intimate
relationship, in the
context of a patriarchal
society**



Acknowledgement

I would also like to acknowledge:

The data regarding reported intimate partner violence by a male against a female.

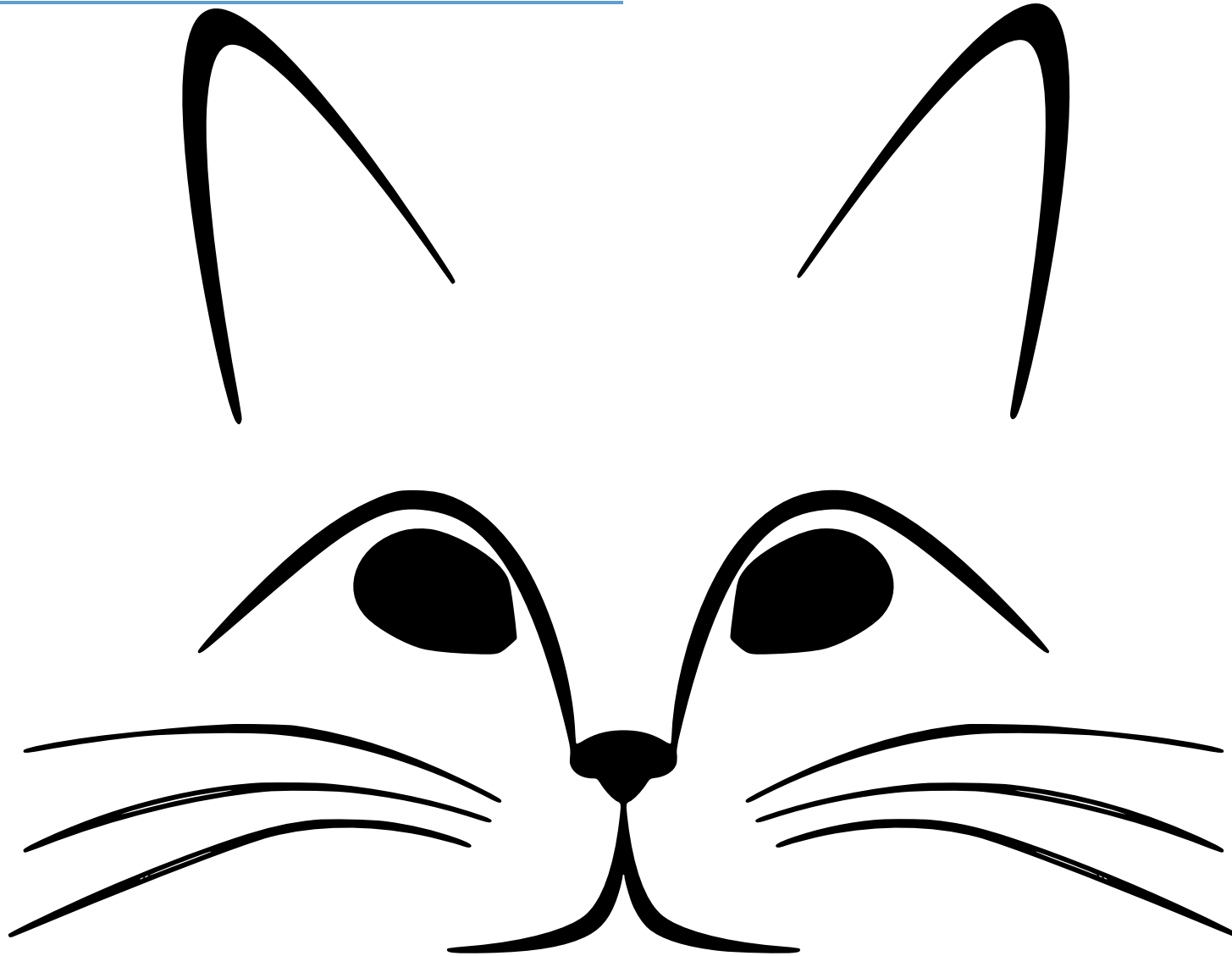
Further unreported violence

Female victims/survivors

The ramifications and impacts of male to female violence in an intimate relationship

The effects on children being exposed to the above

Boys will be Boys?

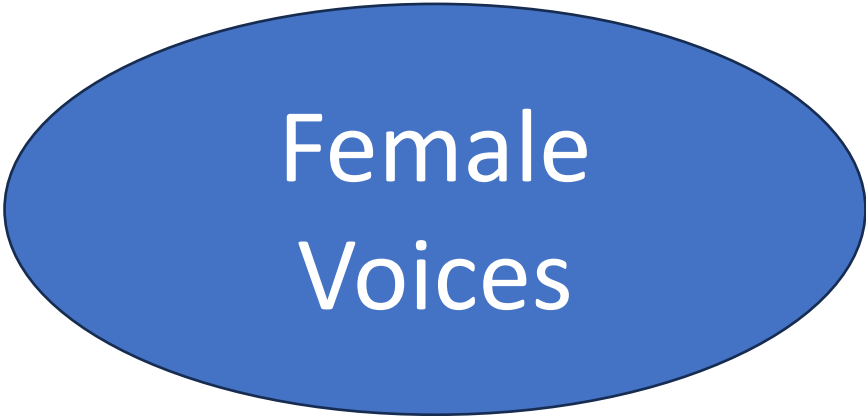


The Value of Understanding, with Accountability



*Compassionately trying to **understand** may assist with an **explanation** as to how come we do the things we do without **justifying** those behaviors*

Repetitive reactions = automation?



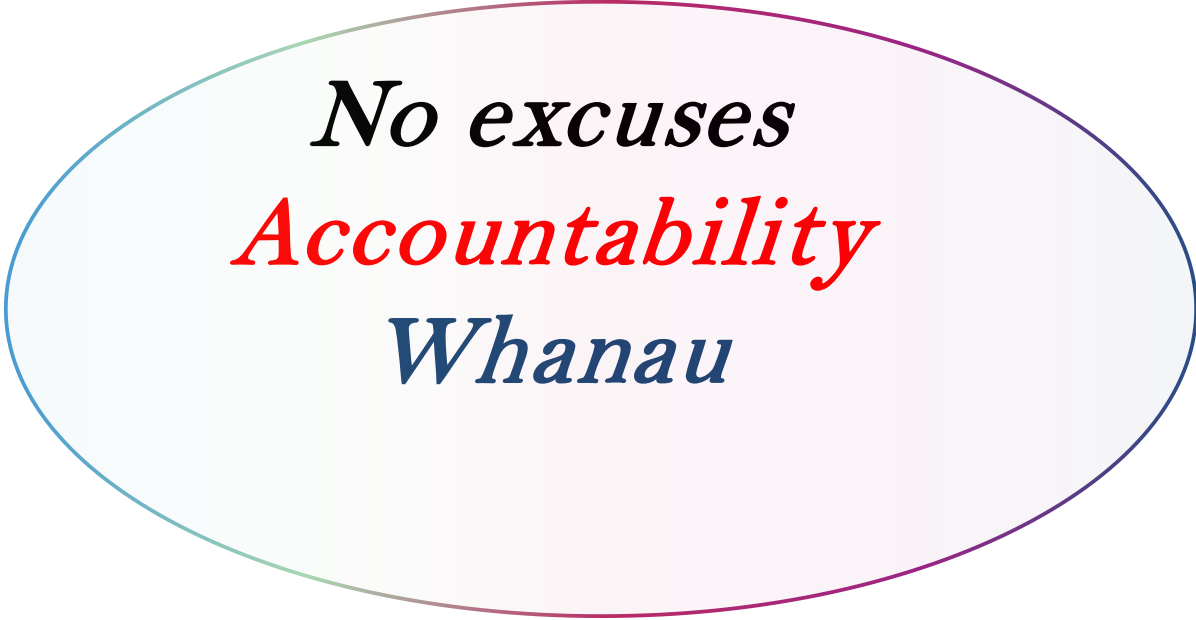
Female
Voices

“If violent reactions are all you have seen, all you have experienced, all that you know, then trauma reactions may well be your violent automation” (mature female)

Correlation?

Patriarchy

Trauma



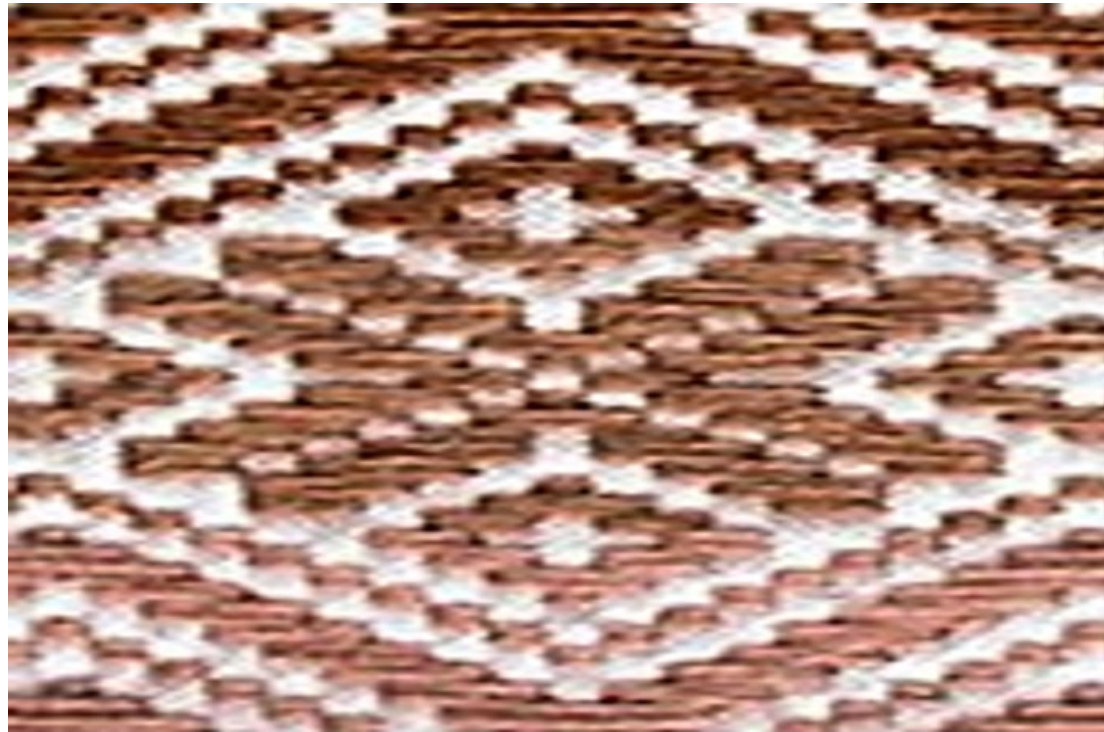
No excuses
Accountability
Whanau

Manosphere

Violent Behaviors

Paradoxical Oxymoron? Invitation

**So, we have violence derived from trauma. And
violence derived from patriarchy and male privilege.**



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Acknowledgement



Of PSN Social Services “Weavers Association”

aka

Our practitioners who work with traumatized males who use violent behaviors, who never compromise on safety, and seek to understand, maintain accountability and facilitate change

Safety First
Risk information shared
Change Goals Process

How Come I'm standing up here? (Instead of there)



Dirty Harry

My introduction to serious violence



Flying into face of trauma



Getting an earful

Children make sense of their world



Core beliefs

Brain pathways strengthened

Adapted survival strategies

Psychological reflexes

Choices

Reductionist?

Traumatized males always make a deliberate choice to use violent behaviours in intimate relationships against a female due *only* to their sense of entitlement and privilege as an outworking of being in a patriarchal society.

Is this comparable with?

People in lower economic situations are there solely due to their own choices around their education, work and financial planning

4/3



Good genes?



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Bad genes?



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A Choice Story

The Who Decides Decision



Spot the difference



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Male Privilege and Entitlement

Trauma and Shame

Rigorous Risk Assessment

The Role of Shame anonymous mature female

Thank you for sharing how you are in recovery from severe episodic violence from your ex partner over 5 years. You indicated some understanding of your aggressor's behaviour?

Yes, of course he's responsible for what he did to me. Its also about what he thought about himself and the shame he carried.

Your saying that shame was part of the drivers for his behaviors against you?

Yes to me its clear. All these systemic and social issues which impact on people, and the impacts of childhood abuse against them. And then it all gets acted out in an intimate relationship.

Given your experience I'm a little surprised you have these thoughts...

I'm well into recovery and I've reflected and see a world that moulds males into violence in relationships. Shame lies underneath for not all, but many.

You were saying that responsibility lies with....

.....the male who uses violence against a women yes. But I have this kind of idea..... The "Of Course" idea.

Are you suggesting its inevitable?

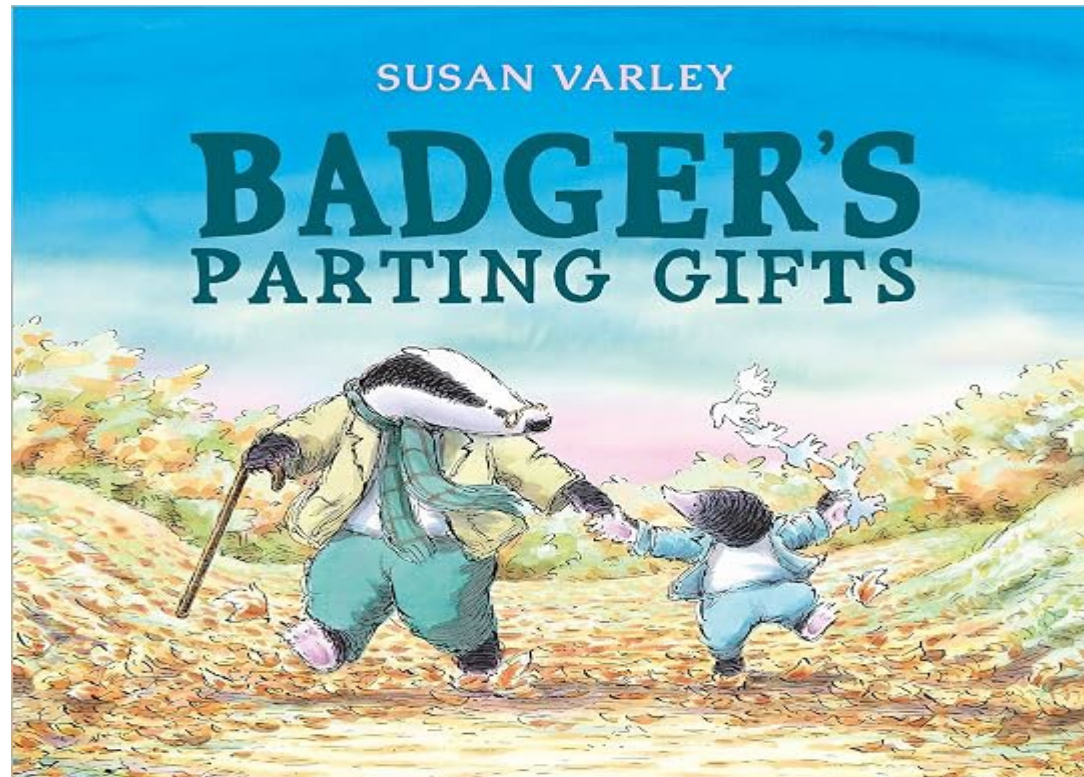
Yes, to a large degree, shame often comes out badly in intimate relationships

Shades and Edges



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Imparted gifts



Trauma

**Our body, brain, nervous system, spiritual
responses
NOW
which depend on how we process what
happened to us
BEFORE**

It's a construct	Evidenced by science but overused	Meaningfully explored in a helpful way	Another excuse for violence	Pathologizes
Doesn't exist	Everybody and every challenging situation gets labelled traumatic	Psycho-education about trauma and the brain supports the development of healthy coping and regulation strategies. Can be therefore empowering	The notion of bringing trauma ideas into family violence reduces or takes no regard for accountability of the user of violence for their behaviours	Makes the brain of the person who has experienced violence the problem and not the violent behaviours

Duluth Model – its value and impact

Brought overdue attention to the impact and extent of males ‘battering’ females in the context of an intimate partner relationship.

Empowered many females to leave abusive relationships

Identified 8 behaviours as deliberate tactics of choice which become patterns of dominating actions by a male over a female

Gave us the power and control wheel and highlighted male privilege

Focussed away from a male losing his temper with a female or having an anger issue to male entitlement in a patriarchal society

Purest Duluth Implications Today

Notwithstanding that gender based violence is a terrible part of our society

All perpetrators of family violence are always male

Male perpetrators are abusive to female partners

If a female uses violent behaviour against a male partner it is always because they are defending themselves

Males who abuse their female partner are always directly abusive to their child(ren)

Males who use violence against their female partner are always making a deliberate choice regardless

The only pathway into violence is via male power in a paternalistic society – male entitlement and male privilege; all roads lead to Rome

Trauma is an excuse in relation to male perpetrator violence and pathologizes female victims

A Critique of Duluth

Might Include:

Over-generalizations

Assumptions

Lacks a diversity and fluidity lens around gender and relationships

Struggles with nuance

Doesn't address exceptions

Ideologically rigid

Developed before brain scans on live persons existed

Who is concerned about this male and for this female?

The subordination choice



Ideology and Philosophy

An ideology is a set of beliefs that is attributed to a person or group of people. These beliefs are held for reasons that are not necessarily rooted in knowledge.

There is a practical outworking of these set of beliefs

Reported example NZ Herald

*“School curriculum rewrite
‘ideological’, Crown breached
multiple Treaty principles -
Waitangi Tribunal”.*

*“writers surrounded by
supporters”*

Maybe 2 perspectives *weren't*
held together?

And Philosophy – ideas are an important start

A philosophy is based on progressive
questioning, learning-seeking
behaviors which can hold tensions
and develop into
a flexible grouping of ideas about
understanding
the nature of our ourselves, our
actions and our existence

Voices: Reflection – *Female anonymous, aged 39*

“I grew up with family violence from age 6. Its all I knew. I was gang affiliated.

I look back at my bro’s and see how their emotional needs weren’t being met from the abuse they experienced.

They manned up. They pushed it all down. They went large. It all came out – all that pushed down bad stuff - when intimacy came into their lives”.

Voices: Reflection – Female anonymous aged 44

I went to prison because of stuff I did that I'm responsible for. I know that. I did that stuff. But cultural norms also had a say in what happened to me. I was going under. But you don't ask for help. I was really struggling. But you can't be seen to fail. So, I lashed out. All around me the culture that I love seemed at the time like it was hating on me. Prison was really bad. But it gave me time away to work this out.

How Come this is Important?

**Practical outworking of beliefs and
ideas (i.e. theory into practice)**

Practice Implications



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First chair – denial, avoidance,

Look “Laura” you know we’ve had some good chats and learnt so much but when I came into the group I was like what’s a girl doing here. Playing the boss. Thinks she’s gonna tell me what to do, tell me anything, I don’t belong here. It was like you cant talk about your ex cos she’s not in the room. So it was like shit this is all on me. I was not having that

Minimization, justification, blame

Second chair - awakening

*At that middle review thing I was like man there's bros in here who are alright. Like you made yourselves all vulnerable and said stuff about what they've done, what's going on for you, some of you talked about how you **felt**. When you said about your old man and how they got beaten that was like me. Last week when I told you how I feel ashamed for what I did that was really a big thing for me. But its because of you and how this is like safe to talk. I was a bit lighter, I knew I needed to talk with the Dads here - the ones who saw their kids cos I needed to sort my head out. I needed their support*

Research – what supports change?

2018 Evaluation of the Ministry of Justice-funded Domestic Violence Programmes.

Skilled facilitators and culturally responsive practice—particularly Kaupapa Māori approaches—were identified as important contributors to positive outcomes

The 2024 Aotearoa literature review on Family Violence makes essentially this point: the question is increasingly “**what works, for whom, and under what conditions?**”, rather than whether one particular programme model works universally.

Empathy without collusion

Facilitators: When and how to intervene with cultural sensitivity

Know themselves, their own triggers, their relationship with and to patriarchy, trauma, violence and their own self

Asking: What does becoming a safe tāne/father/partner mean within this person's cultural and whānau context?

When did you last feel like a dad?

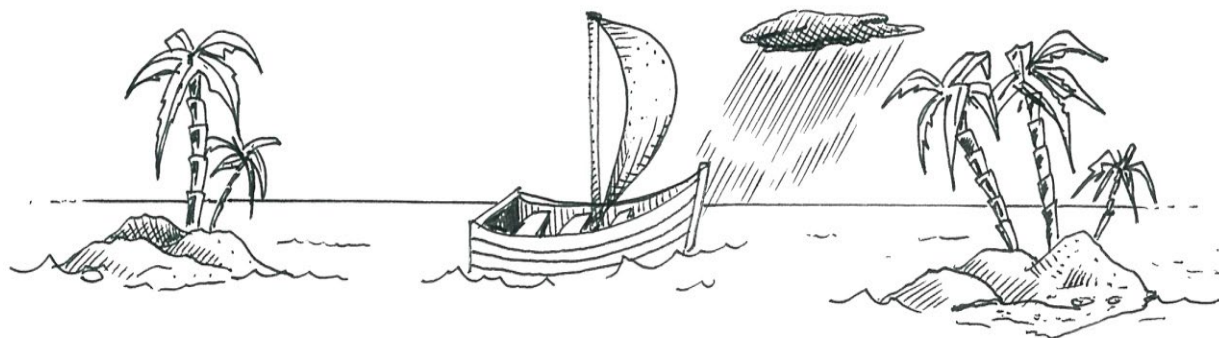
When did you last feel like the dad you wanted to be?

When did your child last count on you?

When did you last stand up for your child in a way that harmed no one?

Separate the person from their behavior and identity; the migration of identity

Notice tiny changes - It's difficult for someone to rise above the version of themselves that they believe in



Empathy without collusion

Facilitators:

Ability to hold participants accountable while maintaining a therapeutic alliance

How to safely utilize group dynamics “Neurons that fire together wire together”, and,

When to ‘let them’ and for how long

How to challenge

Know when and how to ask questions like “what would you say to your younger self”

Empathy without collusion

Be open to what might work for some “I’m on drunk duty”

Be internally curious not furious “ what radicalized this person?”

When males come into the group new, are they anxious? Are they asking themselves: Who are you, where are you from, are you going to hurt me, is there anyone here I will connect with

Ask: how will you notice if its starting to happen again e.g. first sign, what's bubbling up for you?

Know how to enforce the group agreement

Empathy without collusion

Assist the group to be the men's safe space, not to collude, not encourage unwanted behaviors but to support

Pro social shame

(again weaving two perspectives)

Getting to a Crisis for a preferred identity



危机

Third chair - hope

“I want to say thank you to “Laura”, “Hone” and everyone in the group. I said nice stuff to my kids at the weekend. They looked at me a bit weird like, but that was ok. Maybe they’ll get used to me now. I still feel shame. But its not anchoring me down”.

Thank you



Enliven Familyworks Lifeline Shine

