

RADICAL REVENGE

Shame, Blame and the Urge for Retaliation

Renée Danziger

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We all know what it's like to want revenge, but where does that urge come from? Why is it so hard to give up? And why can some people only satisfy it through extreme and brutal acts? In her new book, **RADICAL REVENGE**, Renée Danziger draws on psychoanalytic thinking to offer a fresh perspective on revenge.

Examining some of the most egregious examples of revenge in contemporary society Danziger discusses and develops the concept of radical revenge. Deliberating mass shootings, internet trolling, revenge porn, and contemporary populist politics, she draws on psychoanalytic ideas about shame, envy, and thin-skinned narcissism to discuss why some people feel compelled to engage in destructive acts of radical revenge.

Linking revenge to an instinct for self-preservation, the book suggests that the urge for revenge relates to the need to protect one's sense of self. Noting paediatrician and psychoanalyst D.W. Winnicott's observation of a crude form of revenge in young infants, the book examines the idea that what starts out as a body-based sense of self becomes more complex as the infant develops into a child and then adult.

The book looks too at examples such as the work of Artemisia Gentileschi and David Holthouse, to show that in exceptional cases, revenge can be an act of creativity rather than destruction. The chapters discuss:

The Concept of Radical Revenge

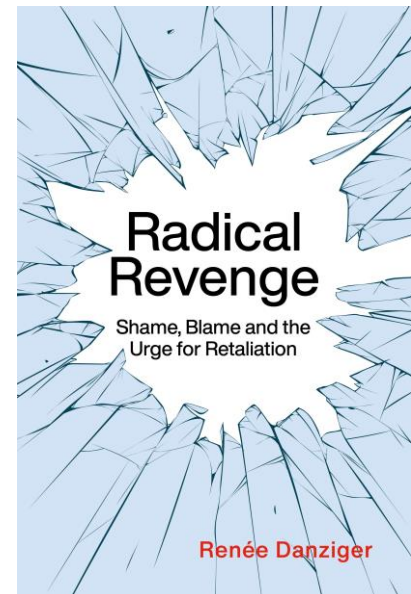
Mass Shootings

The Chilling World of Cyber Revenge

Groups and Radical Revenge

Radically Different Revenge

Radical Revenge in a Post-Truth World



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Renée Danziger is a psychoanalyst in private practice. She is a Fellow of the British Psychoanalytical Society, and an Honorary Senior Lecturer at UCL. Born in the U.S., she has lived in the UK most of her life. She was educated at Manchester University, London School of Economics, and Oxford University where she earned a doctorate in political science.

Renée Danziger is available to write feature articles, speak and participate in online events

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