SEXUALLY ABUSIVE ADOLESCENTS: A STUDY ON PARENTAL ATTACHMENT

by

Adene Lara Davis

Dissertation in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree

MASTER OF ARTS

in

COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY

in the

FACULTY OF ARTS

at the

RAND AFRIKAANS UNIVERSITY

Study Leader: Prof. G. Pretorius
2002
I would like to express my gratitude to the following people without whom this journey would not have been possible:

My parents, Martin and Anne for their unconditional love and support, and for granting me all the emotional and financial resources I’ve needed to make this endeavour possible.

My supervisor, Prof. Gertie Pretorius for her superior guidance and expertise.

Lauren and Ryan for their love and sensitivity and for making me laugh even during the most stressful moments.

Jonty, for his thoughtfulness and patience and for holding me through the more challenging times.

Riette Eiselen for her statistical analysis of the data, her kindness and patience.

Marcel Harper and Mathew Grounds for their invaluable input and suggestions, and for their friendships that continue to inspire my professional and personal growth.

Sheri Davimes, Adi Wolpert and David Abrahamsohn, my wonderful friends and colleagues for their support and assistance in scoring the data for this study.

Shaheda Omar, Vilia Lyell, and Zelda Kruger, three giants in the field of sexual abuse for their practical and theoretical contributions to this study and for teaching me much of what I know about working in this challenging field.

Neal Gething, for assisting me in making this a meaningful, personal journey.

Ilze van der Merwe and Pieter Basson for providing me with clarity and direction when I felt overwhelmed by this study.

The Teddy Bear Clinic, Childline and Walter Sisulu Place of Safety for their generous participation in this study.

The participants who through their courage and willingness to contribute to this study have opened a new window of insight into this field of psychology.