

## JOHNNY DEPP vs. AMBER HEARD: WHO'S THE VICTIM?

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I could write a book on what I've learned by observing parts of the ongoing Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard lawsuit trial and exploring their personal histories. Unfortunately, at the moment I don't have the time to write a book or even an article for publication that would include proper citations and footnotes and meet the proper parameters and formatting requirements. However, I've been asked repeatedly to share my opinion on the matter. For those people, I've compiled what I've learned and my conclusion about which one, if either, is the most likely predominant aggressor. This, of course, is what the jury will have to decide. I've worked many times as an expert witness in domestic violence trials, including criminal, civil and immigration trials. Some of them were lawsuits. But I want to be clear that I haven't been hired to form an expert opinion about this. As the saying goes, I don't have a dog in this fight. I'm compiling the facts for myself so I can form an opinion.

The truth is, I was actively trying to avoid getting wrapped up in the trial because of looming project deadlines. In the absence of domestic violence expert witnesses in court, and the misinformation in the media, though, it seemed important for those with expertise to look at the facts. My interest was piqued when I began seeing so many differing opinions on social media, most of them in support of Johnny Depp, by people insisting that Amber Heard was a conniving, lying abuser. These weren't just coming from men. The majority were comments by women, some who were doing anti-domestic violence work, including some survivors. I got really curious.

I'd never heard or seen any actual evidence that Depp was abusive, but I knew Heard had once implied he was. The most common abuse scenario in a heterosexual relationship is coercive controlling domestic violence or battering perpetrated by the male against the female. When this happens the victim may also strike out in acts of self-defense or resistive violence. But false allegations of abuse, while very rare, do occur so Heard could be lying. Given the conflicting opinions and growing controversy, I had to consider every possibility.

If this wasn't the typical male batterer-female victim scenario, and abuse had occurred without coercive, controlling behavior being exercised by one partner over the other, it was probably *situational violence*, not domestic violence. Those toxic relationships involve equally dysfunctional partners who may fight without using coercive control. *Mutual abuse* is different. The partners in mutually abusive relationships have equal in power and privilege. Neither dominates the other. With two famous, wealthy, privileged celebrities this was a possible but unlikely explanation. The final possibility was *domestic violence or battering with a female abuser* and male victim. This would mean Heard had been the dominant partner, wielding more power and control and privilege than Johnny Depp, who was afraid of her. This didn't seem very likely either, but you never know. Abusers are slick regardless of gender and almost always play the victim. This seemed to be most people's belief.

I choose to always “start by believing”. When someone says they’ve been abused, I assume they’re telling the truth. That’s nearly always the case. I know I can always back my way out of that stance if evidence surfaces suggesting otherwise.

Without personally observing and Johnny Depp and Amber Heard, I had to try to figure out which of them was most likely to be the victim. I used the cumulative knowledge gained over thirty plus years of studying, researching and working in the anti-domestic violence field. This includes interacting with thousands of victims and survivors in various settings including a residential substance use treatment program, various crisis shelters, transitional shelters, an in-patient hospital psychiatric unit, a regional mental health authority, the National Center for PTSD, and as a director for a state agency overseeing victim service agencies. I also drew on knowledge gained in partnerships with batterer intervention organizations and law enforcement entities, projects done with governmental agencies, involvement with many organizations and experts, hundreds of conferences and collaborative committees on which I’d served. These all provided me with deeper insight, as did close longtime relationships with a number of accomplished and well known mentors and researchers in the field, including some who were pioneers and leaders in the early days of the anti-domestic violence movement.

This is not an exhaustive overview of the Depp-Heard relationship by any means. I had just a matter of days to collect information and study publically available documents. I’m sure there is plenty of important information that is not included, and inaccuracies that are. With no staff to help me collect information or verify sources, I just had to do my best. I read articles and watched some trial footage and compiled notes. I don’t know if everything I’ve written is true or not. It’s hard to know. I can understand why people are really confused. I just know I’ve shared what appears to be accurate information that’s been published in the media.

## **JOHNNY DEPP –AMBER HEARD INFORMATION GATHERED**

### **MARRIED 2015-2017**

#### **MAY 2016 ALLEGED ASSAULT**

- Heard applied for a restraining order, saying Depp had been in a drunken rampage, wound up like a baseball pitcher and threw a cell phone at her face, and had violently grabbed her, pulled her hair, smashed bottles of wine and vandalized her painting studio.
- She called the police and they came, but she declined to make a report; they supposedly did an investigation into the domestic incident but didn’t see a bruise on her face at that time and decided no crime had taken place.

#### **RESTRAINING ORDER GRANTED**

- Four days later Heard was granted a temporary domestic violence restraining order
- Depp was ordered to stay at least 100 yards away from her.
- She asked the judge to send him to anger management and was denied
- She asked the judge to order him to stay away from her pet Yorkshire Terrier, but was denied
- Depp denied the accusations and through his representatives said Heard was "attempting to secure a premature financial resolution by alleging abuse."

## **HEARD FILED FOR DIVORCE**

- Heard claimed abuse
- Depp responded claiming she abused him

## **A SETTLEMENT WAS REACHED AFTER**

- Heard withdrew request for an (extended) restraining order
- Heard withdrew her request for spousal support (Hollywood Reporter)
- Apparently a non-disparagement clause was included that prevented either party from saying anything negative about the marriage or break-up. (per The Hollywood Reporter)
- They released a joint statement saying things had been “intensely passionate and volatile” but “There was never any intent of physical or emotional harm.” It said neither was “making false accusations for financial gain.”
- Heard received a \$7 million settlement
- Heard reportedly planned to donate all of the \$7 million to charity. She has stated that due to Depp’s lawsuits and her legal bills, although the money is pledged, she has not yet been able to donate it all. She may or may not have benefited financially from the divorce. Depp got all the houses.

## **HEARD WROTE AN OP-ED ARTICLE**

- Heard wrote an OP-ED article in the Washington Post that was published in 2018 urging the re-authorization of the federal Violence Against Women Act that had stalled in Congress
- She acknowledged a history of being abused as a child, being harassed and sexually assaulted before she was college age and experiencing significant backlash after starting to speak out against domestic violence two years earlier.
- She implied she’d been abused but didn’t state in which relationship/s, or when it had occurred or who had abused her.
- Johnny Depp wasn’t mentioned.

## **DEPP SUED THE SUN NEWSPAPER**

- Depp sued The Sun newspaper in the U.K. for libel, because it referred to him as a “wife beater” in an article. He blamed Heard’s article (that didn’t mention him) for spreading lies.
- The suit claimed “The op-ed depended on the central premise that Ms. Heard was a domestic abuse victim and that Mr. Depp perpetrated domestic violence against her”.
- It claimed Heard's allegations were part of an "elaborate hoax to generate positive publicity" for the actress. Amber Heard had to testify, so a lot of information about her marriage to Depp came out for the first time.

## **DEPP LOST THE LAWSUIT**

- The court ruled in Amber Heard’s favor
- It found that Depp had been violent towards her
- The judge referred to 14 separate incidents of abuse, ruled 12 were credible
- The judge ruled that “The majority of alleged assaults were proved by the civil standard”.
- It said the claim in The Sun newspaper referring to Depp as a "wife-beater" was true

## **DEPP APPEALED**

Johnny Depp appealed the decision, claiming it hadn't been a fair trial.

## **DEPP APPEALED DENIED**

- The Court of Appeals ruled the trial "was full and fair"
- It concluded that the judge had found the abuse claim credible
- It denied Depp's appeal saying the trial judge "gave thorough reasons for his conclusions which have not been shown even arguably to be vitiated by any error of approach or mistake of law."

## **DEPP WAS ASKED TO RESIGN FROM THE FILM FANTASTIC BEASTS 3 (The Secrets Dumbledore)**

- After word got out that Depp lost the lawsuit, the cat was out of the bag so to speak
- Depp was asked to resign from Fantastic Beasts 3 after shooting just one scene
- Nevertheless, Depp was paid his entire salary of \$13.5 million dollars because of his "pay-or play" contract, which states he must "be fully compensated whether or not the film is made and even if it is recast."

## **THE U.S. TRIAL MAY 2022**

### **DEPP SUED HEARD**

- Depp sued Heard in the U.S.
- He claims she defamed him in the 2018 Op-ed in the Washington Post (in which he wasn't mentioned)
- He claims Heard abused him, claiming "Heard is not a victim of domestic abuse, she is a perpetrator."
- Depp is asking the court to make her pay him fifty million dollars because she is a domestic violence perpetrator who is lying
- Depp claims that Heard's public allegations have cost him millions of dollars
- Apparently Depp did suffer some backlash and might have lost some potential jobs. Today, in 2022, he is reportedly worth \$150 million.
- Recent films have earned him the following,
  - \$16 million Fantastic Beast and Where to Find them
  - \$13.5 million Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald
  - \$13.5 million Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore (Fantastic Beasts 3)
  - \$10 million for Murder on the Orient Express
  - \$8 million for City of Lies
  - \$1 million for Waiting for the Barbarians

### **HEARD SUED DEPP IN RETURN**

- After Johnny Depp sued Amber Heard, she responded by suing him
- She claims he's running a smear campaign against her
- She claims his lawsuit against her is a "continuation of abuse and harassment" (This is usually referred to as "post separation abuse" in situations where domestic violence has occurred.)
- She claims she wasn't lying when she testified in the U.K. about abuse.
- She's asking the court to make him pay her one hundred million of dollars for suing her twice and calling her a liar and an abuser, and claims that he abused her during their marriage.

So, to recap how we got here and why this is all happening: Contrary to what many people seem to believe, Amber Heard isn't the reason this is happening. She isn't dragging Johnny Depp through the mud and trying to ruin his reputation. In fact, the exact opposite is true. She's responding to Depp's suits against her and trying to defend herself. Johnny Depp literally asked for this. He wanted it. He filed the suits, and he's paying extraordinary amounts of money to multiple lawyers, expert witnesses, PR experts and others to help him prove he's a battered man, a victim of domestic violence. One of his team's news releases read, "Given the brevity of this marriage and the most recent and tragic loss of his mother, Johnny will not respond to any of the salacious false stories, gossip, misinformation and lies about his personal life."

None of this would have happened if Depp hadn't sued Heard for the article that didn't mention him. As far as I can tell, Amber Heard had never released any statements or claimed publicly that Johnny Depp had abused her. She did call 911 once but didn't file charges. She did apply for and receive a restraining order after that. Other than that, until he sued the newspaper in the U.K. for calling him a wife beater and forced her to talk in court, it appears she'd never once talked publicly or written about being abused by Johnny Depp.

The fact that a U.K. court has already found that Depp abused Heard isn't a legal factor in this U.S. trial. However, it does provide important information for anyone who is seeking the truth. This trial jury must decide just one thing: Did Johnny Depp ever abuse Amber Heard? If it believes even one of her claims, she should win the case.

When I consider Depp's claim that Amber Heard wrote the article about violence against women specifically to try to "gain positive public attention", I can't help but shake my head. Considering the huge backlash and death threats she's experienced from his angry fans (I've read she's been receiving 50 a day during the trial), it seems she's received anything but that. We live in a world where domestic and sexual violence survivors who speak out are nearly always blamed for causing their own abuse, and where movie stars like Johnny Depp are idolized like demi-gods. What sense would it make for a woman to do that?

My research revealed more than I ever wanted to know about the real Johnny Depp, including the fact that he has a well established pattern of going from woman to woman, and getting involved with especially young ones. He is 22 years older than Amber Heard, and the record shows he's repeatedly become sexually involved with much younger women, even teenagers. According to sources in the media, Vanessa Paradis (with whom he has two children) was 17 when they got involved. He was 25. Winona Ryder was 17. He was 27. Kate Moss was 20. Depp was 31. This does not necessarily indicate that a man is an abuser, but it's not at all unusual for men who abuse women. They know that younger partners with limited life experience and little power are far less likely to challenge or defy them.

Depp is also famously reputed to routinely consume extraordinary amounts of mind altering drugs and alcohol and then become extremely volatile and violent. Stories abound about an enraged, intoxicated Depp smashing furniture, or throwing and breaking objects in a fit of rage. While he was with Kate Moss, he was arrested for breaking up furniture and destroying a hotel room, then forced to pay thousands of dollars for the damage. Many stories also have been printed about Depp's destructive rages at home. It's not against the law to smash up your own stuff, of course, but what non-violent person does that? Persons who give themselves

permission to routinely destroy things and intimidate people while doing it clearly don't care about how it affects others who are present.

I don't believe all of Johnny Depp's targets have been inanimate objects. Why else would his wife call the police and file for and be granted a restraining order against him? Why would she ask a judge to make him stay away from her tiny dog? Why would she ask a judge to order him to anger management? (She mustn't have known that's not done at restraining order hearings, but in the sentencing phase of a criminal abuse trial, as part of a plea agreement.) Being granted a restraining order is no sure thing. As any court advocate that supports domestic violence victims can attest, many, many requests for restraining orders are denied. This one wasn't. Only a judge who is convinced a physical assault has taken place and that the petitioner may be in danger will grant one. The judge obviously had reasons to believe Amber Heard, and wasn't the only judge who did. The judge who presided over the U.K. lawsuit case also did, as did all the judges on the appellate court there.

### **SO WHY DO SO MANY PEOPLE THINK AMBER HEARD IS LYING?**

It seems most people think Amber Heard is not telling the truth because Johnny Depp says so. There doesn't seem to be any evidence she has a habit of lying. She admits hitting him. She could deny it because there were no witnesses. Nevertheless, most people seem to think she's lying and that he's telling the truth. He's certainly getting exponentially more support from the public on social media than she is, despite the various courts that have found her claims of abuse credible. Depp's PR team seems to be doing a great job making her look like a really awful person.

### **Johnny Depp's - Claims of Heard's Abuse**

He says

- Amber Heard "punched" him. Nobody knows if this is true. In the phone conversation below she says she slapped him but didn't punch him).
  - Depp has proof, he says, in a recorded phone call his lawyers played in court
  - Heard: "I'm sorry that I didn't ... hit you across the face in a proper slap, but I was hitting you, it was not punching you. Babe, you're not punched. . .I don't know what the motion of my actual hand was, but you're fine, I did not hurt you, I did not punch you. I was hitting you."
  - Depp: "I left last night. Honestly, I swear to you because I just couldn't take the idea of more physicality, more physical abuse on each other. Because had we continued it, it would have gotten fucking bad. And baby, I told you this once. I'm scared to death we are a fucking crime scene right now."
  - Heard: "I can't promise you I won't get physical again. God, I fucking sometimes get so mad I lose it."
- NOTE: Abusers usually blame their victims for causing the abuse. Over time, many victims start blaming themselves, too. Victims also typically feel badly for hitting or hurting their abuser, even if it is done in self-defense.
- Heard harassed him, banged on doors, he had to lock himself in room to get away from her
- She cut his finger off by throwing a vodka bottle that smashed during an argument

NOTE: Amber Heard's story is that Depp was on a three day bender; they'd argued about a prenuptial agreement, he'd assaulted her multiple times, and cut his own finger on the bottle then used it as a "paintbrush" to write bloody messages on the wall. She claims she didn't see it happen and that the next morning when she got up she saw the blood and Depp sitting in her art studio with his finger wrapped up.

- He admits to writing in blood on the walls and says it was lies she'd told him. He says he lied about how he got cut because he didn't want to get her in trouble. One story he told a doctor was that he'd cut it on an accordion. Another was he'd slammed in a door.
- Apparently when this happened two private doctors were staying nearby to treat Depp for addiction to opiates and monitor his detox process. They testified they helped him with his finger and hadn't seen anyone being abusive
- One of those doctors (who is apparently still his private doctor) knew him well and had previously helped Depp detox from opiates (in 2014). He testified under oath that Depp had told him he'd cut himself, and that several days later Depp had texted him again indicating he'd cut it himself and saying he needed to "not do that again".
- Heard was unfaithful to him: had extra-marital affairs with James Franco and Elon Musk
  - I don't know if this true, or if they are just jealous accusations. Other former partners have described Depp's obsessive jealousy and "paranoia" that they were cheating on him.
  - Heard has said Depp often accused her of infidelity. Many, if not most, abusers do this.
  - Most victims are not unfaithful to their abusers. Some, however, eventually accept affection from and become involved with others who treat them better and don't abuse them. This is a reaction to abuse and not the cause of it. It's something they probably never would have done had they not been abused.
- She pooped on his bed
  - Heard has vehemently denied this, including under oath at the trial, saying her Yorkie, who had eaten Depp's "weed" stash as a pup and had bad bowels problems ever since, must have had an accident. She stated that she thought it was "disgusting", not funny at all, and that she had not even been in a joking mood after being attacked by Depp on her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her claim is she had put the two dogs on the bed as she packed for the Coachella event and didn't know the dog did it

Depp and Heard obviously have very different versions of what happened in their relationship. How do we figure out who abused who? I decided to use the well known Power and Control Wheel domestic violence graphic teaching tool that depicts the various tactics of a typical abuser. Using it as a guide, I compared what I'd learned about each of them. Then I reviewed a list of common reactions domestic violence victims have to abuse, and ways they may strike out against the abuser out of fear and resentment. My hope was that I could figure out who was the likeliest to be the abuser, or whether they were both abusers.

## **AMBER HEARD'S REPORTED USE OF ABUSER TACTICS ON THE POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL**

**Intimidation** – threw a bottle during one of Depp's drunken rages

**Threats** – none found

**Verbal Abuse** – Depp stated in an email to his doctor that things with Heard had been good after the detox but that she verbally abused him later, saying “You haven't changed, you fucking desperate hypocrite. You didn't put the monster away. You're full of shit. You're a pathetic fraud.” Depp then replied, “You know how hard I've tried to put that motherfucker (“the monster”) in his cage, and I did that, me. I took all those other problems and rid myself of them.” The doctor stated that he'd never seen or heard any verbal or physical abuse between Depp and Heard.

**Physical abuse** –punched Depp? (Heard denies this, but admits slapping him during an altercation); Heard was also arrested once for hitting her former partner's arm in an airport, but the charges were dropped the next day. That former partner has stated that it was blown out of proportion and that Heard never abused her. They are still friends)

**Sexual abuse** – none found

**Emotional abuse** – poop on bed? (Heard denies this. Her friend iO Tillet Wright stated under oath that Depp was screaming over the phone accusing him and Heard of putting it there, and that he heard Depp hitting Heard and taunting her before she dropped the phone and screamed.)

**Isolation** –none found

**Denial** – denies punching Depp, but admits slapping him; at first denied he was abusing her

**Minimization** – has not appeared to make light of her actions towards Depp

**Blaming** –does not appear to blame Depp for her actions and choices

**Economic abuse** – Does not appear she did this during the marriage; Depp claims her article (which didn't name him) cost him jobs/money; no specific evidence of this found, since he received his full salary anyway after resigning from Fantastic Beasts 3 after just one scene.

Any of the above actions, if actually taken by Heard, can be explained as reactions and responses to abuse by a domestic violence victim acting in self-defense (resistive violence) or acting out of either fear or resentment. These represent single incidents, not ones that occurred repeatedly or regularly. There is no indication of a “pattern of coercive controlling behavior” perpetrated by Heard against Depp, thus these do not meet the criteria for domestic violence. Using these events as the basis for analysis, Amber Heard does not fit the profile of an abuser. She does, however. Appear to fit the profile of someone who has been abused by her intimate partner.

## **JOHNNY DEPP'S REPORTED USE OF ABUSER TACTICS ON THE POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL**

**Intimidated**

Exploded into rages frequently

Punched things when he was enraged (walls next to Heard's head, a sconce on the wall, etc.)

Destroyed furniture and cabinets while raging (couches & cabinets; was arrested for destroying a hotel room and forced to pay for the damages. According to the police report, his then partner, Kate Moss, was “found sitting amid the wreckage”.

Threw and broke things when in a drug-fueled rage

Yelled and banged things



Smashed wine bottles

Vandalized Heard's art studio

Source: on video, numerous observer accounts, Heard under oath, Depp under oath, Heard restraining order application

### **Threatened**

Screamed threats to kill Heard multiple times while assaulting her ("I'll fucking kill you! Per Heard under oath)

Acknowledged he'd fantasized about killing Heard

Threatened to violently assault Heard (texted "I'll smack the ugly cunt around before I let her in"),

Threatened to ruin Heard's reputation

Stated he wanted to torture and kill Heard, in a text to a friend "Let's drown her before we burn her!!! I will fuck her burnt corpse afterwards to make sure she's dead."

Texted a friend saying Heard is "begging for total global humiliation. She's gonna get it. But she sucked [Elon Musk's] crooked dick and he gave her some shitty lawyers ... I have no mercy, no fear and not an ounce of emotion or what I once thought was love for this gold digging, low level, dime a dozen, mushy, pointless dangling overused flappy fish market ... I'm so fucking happy she wants to fight this out!!! She will hit the wall hard!!! And I cannot wait to have this waste of a cum guzzler out of my life!!! I met fucking sublime little Russian here ... Which makes me realize the time I blew on that 50 cent stripper ... I wouldn't touch her with a goddamn glove." (to agent Christian Carino)

May have threatened or hurt Heard's small dog, since she requested in the restraining order that he be made to stay away from it

During an assault was overheard on the phone threatening Heard, "What if I peel your fucking hair back?"

Threatened to hurt himself with a knife with Heard's nickname engraved on it, wielding it in a drunken rage and begging her to cut him over and over (audio recording)

Threatened to ruin Heard's career; "Johnny told me he would ruin me. That no one would ever touch me professionally. That I'd never work again. I'd be selling Depends", referring to the adult incontinence products....."He'd ruin my career. He refused to not engage with the press by leaking false (stories)."

### **Verbally abused**

Screaming at Heard

Swearing at Heard

Calling Heard vulgar names

Called her "talentless" and made her cry (per friend iO Tillet Wright under oath)

'All she's got is looks and she has no talent, and when her tits start to sag and her face gets wrinkly, nobody is going to be interested in her for anything, so she better figure out another way to survive.'" said to Heard's friend iO Tillet Wright ( as stated under oath)

Referred to her in vulgar terms in texts to friends, which indicates he almost surely talked to Heard in the same way, since he has no problem disrespecting his wife in such a way.

## **Physical abuse**

According to Heard's testimony under oath Depp has:

Slapped her multiple times

Pounded her head

Hit her (caused facial bruises, bloodied her lip, black eye)

Pulled out chunks of her hair

Shoved her to the ground multiple times

Shoved her onto the bed and ripped off her clothes

Thrown her onto a ping pong table with broken glass and dragged her through it (claims she still had scars on her arms and feet from an incident where Depp allegedly

kicked Heard (Depp's assistant Stephen Deuters texted Heard apologizing for Depp having kicked her the night before. "He's done this many times before," she replied. "Tokyo, the island, London (remember that?!), and I always stay. Always believe he's going to get better ... And then every 3 or so month, I'm in the exact same position.")

Cut lip and swollen face observed by Heard's sister, as stated under oath

NOTE: There are allegations that Depp has abused other women, although as stated previously, Ryder and Paradis have both denied ever being abused by Depp. It's not known if they signed nondisclosure agreements that would prohibit them from talking about it.

Possibly pushed Kate Moss down the stairs (per Heard under oath, she was told by two different friends of Kate Moss, however Moss denied this under oath at the trial.

Threw a bottle at Ellen Barkin (per Barkin, who testified at this trial)

Overheard on phone punching Heard then taunting her, "Oh you think I hit you? You fucking think I hit you? What if I peel your fucking hair back?" The phone dropped and Heard screamed. (Per Heard's friend iO Tillet Wright under oath, who called the police when he heard this happening)

SOURCE: Photos of bruised face, black eye, other injuries, medical records described by an expert witness under oath, Heard under oath, text messages by Depp, texts by Depp's assistant  
NOTE: multiple examples of violence towards others, outside the home; fought with friends and threw a wine bottle towards her, per Ellen Barkin (under oath)

## **Sexual abuse**

Reportedly raped Heard multiple times

Did an invasive search of her body with his fingers looking for drugs he accused her of hiding

Shoved his fingers into her vagina on multiple occasions

Threw her onto the bed, ripped off her clothes and raped her with a bottle

Accused Heard of sexual infidelity

Used sexual slurs and abusive sexual language when speaking to and about Heard

SOURCE: expert witness under sworn oath, Heard under oath

## **Isolation**

Used obsessive jealousy to control Heard and keep her away from certain people (by his admission)

Tried to control which movies she worked on & which actors she worked with

Verbally acknowledged he was "jealous" and "weird" when she worked on movies

Erupted into a rage when a woman placed her hand on Heard's shoulder because he thought she was being "too affectionate"

Cut her off from her friends, per Heard's sister under oath  
Controlled her cell phone "at all times" per Heard's sister under oath  
Smashed phones many times during fights  
Former girlfriend Ellen Barkin has been quoted as saying, "He's just a jealous man, controlling, "Where are you going? Who are you going with? What did you do last night?"  
SOURCES: Heard under oath, Depp statements, Heard's sister under oath. Barkin under oath

### **Denial**

Repeatedly insisted (including under oath) he's never abused any woman, in any way, despite evidence to the contrary, and witnesses including ex Ellen Barkin and Heard's sister  
Specifically denies ever abusing Heard in any way  
Has admitted or implied to others he's been abusive with Heard  
Texted Heard's father, "Yes I fucked up and went too far in our fight.")  
Suggested Heard was faking her injuries and that they were from a 'secret Fight Club' (referring to the film about an underground boxing group).  
Many times denied ever abusing any drugs (although he talked about it at the trial to explain or justify his abusive behavior) and despite multiple witnesses, photos of him with drugs, photos of him passed out, numerous accounts of his drug-fueled rages, acknowledging going to a two week detox program, his doctor testifying that he's helped Depp detox from opiates, stimulants, benzodiazepines, and alcohol ; Depp's doctor stated that Depp was abusing Xanax when Depp and Heard were dating; Depp has said since the age of 12 he's taken all manner of substances, including marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy, LSD, prescription painkillers, opiates and magic mushrooms.  
Denies being abusive to Heard in any way, yet Heard's sister testified under oath that the couple always fought when Depp was drinking, and that by the end of the relationship Heard had stopped sleeping as much, didn't laugh like she used to, and weighed only "100 pounds soaking wet"  
Depp's former girlfriend Jennifer Grey was quoted as saying that Depp was "crazy jealous and paranoid".

### **Minimization**

Depp made light of his threats to kill Heard  
Has reportedly been violent with strangers and co-workers, but doesn't consider it "abuse"  
Smirks, laughs, giggles in court, including when Heard testified about his abuse, and when she acted afraid of him  
Depp's our private doctor stated under oath that Depp "has no accountability for his behavior".

### **Economically abused**

Depp tried to stop Heard from working on certain films  
Sued her for 50 million dollars to try to break her financially

### **Emotionally abused**

Depp has been verbally abusive, per his own admission  
Was "incredibly mean and vicious" when drinking, per iO Tillet Wright under oath, who lived on the property for a while and was a friend of the couple's for several years  
Talked trash/called Heard names when communicating with friends during their marriage  
Purposely tried to make Heard feel bad about herself

Talked trash about various other former intimate partners (referred to ex-wife and mother of his children, Vanessa Paradis, as “the French extortionist, ex-cunt”)

Used manipulative kindness to convince Heard he was sorry so she wouldn’t leave him

Cried and begged for forgiveness after abusing Heard but made no genuine attempt to change

Got down on his knees and said “I thought I’d put the monster away” (referring to his persona when he was in a rage)

Accused Heard of being unfaithful

Controlled what Heard wore, made her wear more conservative clothing, per Heard’s sister under oath

Sued Heard for revenge (“She’s going to hit the wall hard!!” “She’s begging for global humiliation!”)

'I was trying to get him to call the dogs off. He was calling me a liar...I kept saying don't make me prove it. He was calling me a liar and having a sophisticated PR machine (speak to the press).'

Was extremely controlling and jealous, per former girlfriend Ellen Barkin (under oath)

Accused Ellen Barkin of having sex with someone because she had a scratch on her back

### **Blamed**

Blamed Heard for abusing him; testified under oath that she’d abused him

Blamed her for throwing a vodka bottle cutting and off part of his finger

Blamed Heard for pooping on his bed

Blamed Heard for defaming him (writing the article that didn’t name him)

Blamed Heard for losing money because of her article

Blamed Heard for talking about his abuse of her (although she didn’t have any choice in court)

Blamed her for him picking up a bottle of liquor and drinking out of it and relapsing

Blamed Heard, who was helping the doctors detox Depp, for “withholding drugs” from him, saying it was "one of the cruelest things that she has ever done"

The above is only a partial list of Johnny Depp’s behaviors I learned about that are listed as abuse tactics on the Power and Control Wheel, It is doubtless not an exhaustive list of reported abuses.

### **Depp’s Use of Violence Outside the Home**

Johnny Depp has been arrested several times for acts of violence outside the home, and involved in other legal actions related to violence outside the home. This is significant, because most individuals who use violence, particularly celebrities and powerful men, are never arrested or held accountable. In general, a person who believes he has the right to use violence outside the home will almost surely give himself permission to use it inside the home as well, where consequences rarely occur. I have read research suggesting that abusers who are also violent with others are among the most dangerous.

### **Depp’s Arrests and Legal Involvement related to Violence**

- Depp was arrested in Vancouver in 1989 for assaulting a security guard after the police were called to end a loud party at his hotel room

- He was also arrested in New York City in 1994 after causing significant damage to his room at The Mark Hotel, where he was staying with Kate Moss, his girlfriend. The charges were dropped against him after he agreed to pay US\$9,767 in damages.
- Was arrested again in 1999 for brawling with paparazzi outside a restaurant while dining in London with Vanessa Paradis
- In 2018, was sued for allegedly hitting and verbally insulting a crew member while under the influence of alcohol on the set of City of Lies.
- Heard was granted a restraining order against him
- A UK judge found that 14 incidents of assault on Heard by Depp were proven by civil standards
- In 2012, disabled UC Irvine medical professor Robin Eckert sued Depp and three security firms, claiming to have been roughed up by his bodyguards at a concert in Los Angeles in 2011. During the incident, she was allegedly hand-cuffed and dragged 40 feet across the floor, resulting in injuries including a dislocated elbow. Depp's attorneys contended that Eckert provoked the alleged assault and therefore "consented to any assault and battery". Eckert's court papers stated that Depp, despite being his security guards' direct manager, did nothing to stop the attack. Before the case went to trial, he settled with Eckert for an undisclosed sum, according to TMZ. The suit was settled in 2019.

### **Depp's beliefs about Violence Against Women**

Anyone who works with men who abuse women can tell you that domestic violence isn't caused by any external influences on the abuser such as alcohol, drugs, mental illness, PTSD and the like. It's not a behavior problem, but a belief problem. Abusers are possessive and believe their wives belong to them, much like any other property. As a result they believe this gives them the right (and maybe the responsibility) to keep "their women" in line. They will justify the use of any means they think necessary to enforce that right. Contrary to what most believe, abusers don't lose control. They choose control. This is why anger management classes for abusers are a waste of time. They do nothing to change beliefs about entitlement. Perpetrating abuse and violence on a partner requires that a person gives himself permission to do so. Like most others who perpetrate domestic violence on wives or girlfriends, Depp clearly believes that married men are entitled to abuse their wives. Specifically he believes he was entitled to abuse Amber Heard. As stated under oath at the trial, the couple's friend iO Tillet Wright testified about Depp, **"He said, 'We're married. Now I can punch her in the face and no one can do anything about it.'" ONLY an abuser would ever say such a thing. A non-violent newlywed man would never think to make light of something as serious as violence against women, and certainly wouldn't consider joking around about it.**

### **Substance Abuse and Abuser Behavior**

As previously noted, Depp has a widely reported lifestyle involving routine consumption of large amounts of intoxicating substances, and has described beginning to use them at a very young age. Heard describes many of the worst episodes involving physical or sexual violence as occurring during Depp's drug binges, "benders" and blackouts when he was extremely intoxicated. His doctors have testified to multiple occasions of efforts to help him detox from a whole variety of substance including upper (cocaine), downers benzodiazepines (Valium or the like), alcohol, and prescription drugs (painkillers, anti-anxiety meds).

Although drugs and alcohol are not believed to be the cause of domestic violence, the use of them by someone who gives themselves permission to abuse often results in more severe, cruel, dangerous or deadly episodes of violence than those occurring when the same abuser is sober. This is why victims, abusers and many in the public believe that such substances are causative links to domestic violence, rather than correlates. But they are abusive and controlling even when they are sober, if not physically violent. Those who use addictive substances blame the drugs or alcohol for their violence, (“I was in a blackout”, “I was out of mind”, “I couldn’t help myself.”, “I didn’t mean to hurt you.”)

For this reason, victims typically respond by trying to keep their abusers sober and get them help - by hiding or disposing of drugs and alcohol, trying to talk them into going to couples counseling, marriage counseling, religious counseling, anger management classes (as Heard attempted to do) or detox (also attempted by Heard), 12 step programs such as AA/NA, or psychiatric treatment to find out what’s wrong and get them help. They may encourage medical tests, psychiatric intervention or the use of drugs such as Disulfiram (Antabuse) that make a person sick if alcohol is consumed, or Methadone or Suboxone (buprenorphine and naloxone) to treat opiate addiction.

Victims, like the general public, often believe their substance-using partners are sick and need their help. This is because typically during the courtship, they weren’t abused at all or as badly. Abuse tends to begin or become much worse after the relationship becomes very serious or exclusive, such as when the couple moves in together, gets married, or a baby is expected. The abuser seems to be a different person than the one they fell in love with, so the assumption is there is some external cause for the sudden onset of abusive behavior. What victims don’t realize is that their partner simply believes he’s now entitled to treat them however he chooses, to create a set of rules for them to follow, and to punish them if they disobey. It’s usually not until a survivor is later educated about domestic violence that they come to the painful realization that their abuser actually chose to abuse them and not everyone else.

Importantly, most abusers typically use the same intoxicating substances when in the company of friends and acquaintances. Some may act abusively with others, but rarely if ever do they try to control them or treat them as badly as they do their intimate partners. Offenders who have been arrested and have participated in court ordered BIPs have confirmed that looking back, they had made choices about who and where to abuse. They acknowledge that they never gave themselves permission to batter or abuse non-partners similarly because they didn’t believe they had a right to do so, and knew they might suffer severe consequences. This was clearly the case with Johnny Depp in his relationship with Amber Heard.

This is important to understand because studies have shown that the number one determinant that a victim who has separated will reconcile with an abuser is that he’s entered some type of treatment they believe can stop the abuse. Unfortunately, experts working with victims and abusers know that no treatment, including the best BIP, is able to make a person’s abuse stop. Only an abuser’s radically changed belief system can possibly result in that. This is why it’s important for victims to understand that an abuser’s participation in a BIP doesn’t make them any safer. In fact, sometimes it results in an escalation in abuse.

Even when abusers do achieve sobriety, they typically don't stop abusing their victims. Even if the physical abuse stops for a while or occurs less often, the coercive controlling behaviors continue. This is because they still feel entitled and superior. It's not unusual for a "dry drunk" to blame the victim when they're physically or emotionally miserable because they can't drink or drug anymore. This appears to be the case with Johnny Depp. He blamed her "abusing him" when she refused to give him drugs during a detox, and in text messages between he and Heard, he implies that since his detox, although things were better for a while, "the monster" (their nickname for Depp when he was violent) had come back. "You know how hard I've tried to put that motherfucker in his cage.", he wrote.

It's very important to understand that most domestic violence is not physical abuse. Although some abusers batter their partners physically or sexually on a daily or very frequent basis, this is not usually the case. According to research, coercive control, threats, verbal abuse, mind games and gaslighting, jealous accusations of infidelity, sleep deprivation, treating the victim like a slave, isolating them, depriving them of freedom and autonomy, and other non-physical or sexual forms of abuse generally comprise the majority of intimate abuse. Often there is no sexual or physical abuse occurring at all. Because these forms of abuse are typically constant rather than episodic, they tend to be even more traumatizing than most physical or sexual abuse. The majority of victims don't even know they constitute domestic violence. Aside from some extreme threats, they tend not to even be illegal.

Routine mistreatment and degradation take a major emotional toll on victims, destroying their sense of value and safety in the world, and eroding their self-esteem. They change dramatically over time as a result, often in ways that make them less likeable. I've met very few survivors who don't say this was the worst part of their abuse. It's typical for them to have difficulty recalling specific statements and incidents of non-physical and non-sexual abuse unless they record them, because they tend to be constant and cumulative. Emotional numbing, dissociation, and psychogenic amnesia often result, making it difficult for victims to articulate their experience and help others understand the resulting emotional devastation and why they "can't just get over it".

**IMPORTANT: In terms of efforts to determine whether someone is likely to be a victim or an abuser, it is equally important to assess for the presence or lack of characteristics known to be common to victims and survivors of domestic violence**

### **DOES DEPP DISPLAY COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTIMS OR SURVIVORS?**

Johnny Depp's lawsuit claims Amber Heard battered him and that he is a victim of domestic violence. Those of us who have observed or worked with hundreds or even thousands of victims and survivors over many decades know that without fail domestic violence dramatically changes a person emotionally and psychologically. As a result, they share many characteristics with other survivors.

Additionally, physiological changes from the inevitable trauma resulting from experiencing extreme fear, helplessness and/or horror routinely are common and normal. These are due to changes in the brain caused by the constant release of stress hormones, and are the cause of

PTSD. This is true for anyone who has been traumatized, whether they are male or female, gay or straight, etc.

Male survivors of domestic violence may present differently, but they are just as afraid of their abuser as are female victims. I have observed them shake with fear, cry, and do all the same things females do when they recall the abuses they experienced.

Although victims of domestic violence don't all respond in the same ways to having been abused, they do respond, and survivors tend to be different than they were before they were abused. Johnny Depp doesn't appear to have changed at all. He doesn't display ANY of the characteristics usually resulting in persons who have been traumatized by domestic violence. For example, as observed at the trial, Depp did not physically back away from or seem scared by Heard when they found themselves suddenly in close proximity to one another. Heard automatically backed away. This indicates a probable unconscious exaggerated startle response, a symptom of PTSD. She never took her eyes off of Depp as she walked backwards, which indicates the presence of a fear response, and perhaps the PTSD symptom known as hypervigilance.

**To repeat, Johnny Depp DOES NOT display common traits of survivors of domestic violence.**

The exact opposite is true.

**Johnny Depp DOES display many traits that are uncommon to survivors of domestic violence.**

Given this observation, numerous questions arise that beg an answer.

If Amber Heard abused and terrorized Johnny Depp, then

Why doesn't he have anything in common with most survivors of domestic violence?

Why does he have so many characteristics that are not common in survivors?

Why does he have so many characteristics in common with abusers?

Why are the things he says when describing his abuse not typical of things that survivors say?

Why doesn't he appear to fear or be intimidated by Amber Heard?

Why does he repeatedly "poke the bear" and do and say things that would enrage any abuser?

These are some extremely important questions.

### **Important Differences Between Johnny Depp and Survivors of Domestic Violence**

#### **Absence of Fear**

The most significant and telling difference between Depp and a survivor of domestic violence is his apparent complete lack of fear or intimidation related to Heard. Neil Jacobson, PhD and John Gottman, PhD were renowned research sociologists who studied 200 couples experiencing "marital distress" over a ten year period. In each case, they discovered that domestic violence was occurring, and every abuser was the male partner. The researchers constantly measured and recorded the physiological reactions in both individuals as they interacted with each other (heart rate, respiration, blood pressure, perspiration, etc.) At the end of the study they wrote a book, When Men Batter Women, about their findings. One of the most significant determinations was that EVERY domestic violence victim always had one thing in common. This was FEAR of their abuser.

Johnny Depp is clearly not in the least bit afraid of Amber Heard, even though he claims she harassed and abused and hit and punched him, cut his finger off, made him hide in bathrooms, etc. A person who is afraid would not text a friend saying, "I have no mercy, no fear and not an



ounce of emotion or what I once thought was love for this gold digging..." or "I'm so fucking happy she wants to fight this out!!! She will hit the wall hard!!!" Even when survivors say they're not afraid, because they don't want to appear weak, statements like this that indicate a complete lack of fear are unlikely. In addition, no victim or survivor actually pursues or gleefully looks forward to a fight with their abuser! To the contrary, they usually bend over backward to be nowhere near them, and certainly do not purposely provoke them. It would be extremely unusual for a survivor to doggedly pursue and legally harass the person who terrifies and traumatizes them. Survivors fear retaliation because they've been told what will happen if they try to leave. This is why so many victims just disappear and never report the abuse to the police, or fight for the child support or spousal support to which they are legally entitled. Notably, Heard relinquished all spousal support in the divorce settlement. Additionally, survivors typically want to get as far away from their abuser as possible, and cut all ties with them in order to start a new life. They do not go out of their way to keep the abuser involved in their life for years after the relationship has ended. At one point during the trial, Depp and Heard found themselves in close proximity to each other and she flinched and backed away and he did not. Rather, he smirked.

### **Absence of Shame or Embarrassment**

Not all, but most victims, particularly males abused by females, are very embarrassed and ashamed when people find out they've been abused. They usually try to keep it quiet and may feel humiliated and fear being considered weak or spineless. Johnny Depp clearly doesn't mind one bit telling the world that he has been abused. To the contrary, he appears to revel in and actually enjoy the constant public attention and sympathy extended to him by his masses of fans. He has been quoted as saying, "I can't say I'm embarrassed because I'm doing the right thing."

Circumstances involving Johnny Depp that would cause most people to experience some measure of shame or embarrassment are not limited to his behavior towards Amber Heard. For example, while participating in a widely televised awards show with millions of viewers, he was extremely intoxicated, noticeably slurring his words. Later Depp was confronted about his behavior. Although most celebrities would have immediately issued an apology to the producers, the public, and fans (think Will Smith at the Oscars), he instead minimized it, saying "I don't feel ashamed of that moment because that's a sickly man, a drug addict who is coming off a very unpleasant medication and I was not prepared to go out and give that awards show. However, because they had asked me, and it was my duty to do so, I carried it through." Note that he not only failed to apologize and take responsibility for his actions, he also tried to flip the script by suggesting he was even being heroic for meeting an obligation when he was intoxicated.

### **Absence of Common Trauma Symptoms**

As mentioned, most survivors of domestic violence will exhibit at least some symptoms of trauma. In a study I directed at the National Center for PTSD, 84% of the survivors of domestic violence who were interviewed had a full blown PTSD diagnosis, and the rest had various PTSD symptoms. Although Depp claims he has been traumatized by Heard and her treatment of him, there's no evidence of even a single trauma symptom which we would expect to see or at least hear about – no apparent hypervigilance, exaggerated startle response, emotional numbing,

disturbing flashbacks, or avoidance (such as avoiding thinking about, talking about, or being near their abuser) for example. By contrast, Heard IS diagnosed with PTSD, in common with other survivors of extreme abuse, and many of her symptoms are obvious when she has testified and been forced to recall painful memories.

### **Lack of guilt**

According to validated research studies, survivors of domestic violence tend to experience guilt about things they did or didn't do while in the abusive relationship. I directed a research project at the National Center for PTSD (VA) studying this, and a follow-up project in which survivors with PTSD were assessed and provided with free cognitive behavioral therapy for trauma related guilt. We found that abusers were nearly always the opposite of victims when it came to the experience of guilt. They typically didn't feel guilty at all about anything they'd done. Because of their deeply seated sense of entitlement, they felt justified and believed they'd done nothing wrong. To date I've seen no evidence that Johnny Depp has ever indicated experiencing any guilt related to things he did or didn't do during his marriage to Amber Heard.

### **Lack of sorrow or regret**

Survivors usually are usually sad in some ways about the end of their relationship, although they are glad to be free of the abuser. Despite the horror of the violence, they may remember the courtship with fondness, and also some good times they had together. Realizing that despite their best efforts they were unable to make the relationship work is a frequent source of emotional pain. I've often heard them say, "I didn't want the relationship to end. I just wanted the violence to stop."

Johnny Depp apparently hasn't ever indicated he's sorry or sad about the dissolution of his marriage, or expressed regrets about anything he did to contribute to it, despite its disastrous. To the contrary, he seems delighted the relationship is over, and as he indicated in a text to a friend he had no problem moving on quickly to other women. (Referring to Heard, he texted "I cannot wait to have this waste of a cum guzzler out of my life!!! I met a fucking sublime little Russian here ...")

In contrast, traumatized survivors I've worked with are frequently afraid to date again, at least for a while. Not only do they fear retaliation from their former abuser if they date someone else, they fear they will be unable to identify and avoid another one. Those who are especially traumatized may even consciously avoid being in close physical proximity to members of the same gender as their abuser because it triggers their anxiety.

### **Recognizing and Acknowledging Acts of Violence**

Johnny Depp insists he was a victim of domestic violence and maintains he has never acted abusively, however he has at times described his own abusive behavior. Specifically, he has acknowledged acting like "a fucking savage", "a lunatic," and "an angry aggro injun in a fucking blackout, screaming obscenities and insulting any fuck who got near". Any survivor knows that screaming obscenities and savagely insulting people are acts of abuse. This begs the questions, "If Johnny Depp really is a victim, why doesn't he consider such behavior to be abusive?" and "What exactly is his definition of abuse?" If he considered it abuse, he most likely wouldn't admit to it. His gross lack of insight is very significant and telling. Many survivors can look back and acknowledge times when they responded to abuse by striking back verbally or physically at

their abuser. The difference is that when they recount such incidents, they don't report also having insulted and screamed at bystanders. Moreover, they would never describe themselves as "fucking savages" or "lunatics", which implies menace and malice.

### **Looking Forward with Excited Anticipation to Fighting One's Abuser in Court**

Depp texted a friend after Amber Heard filed a countersuit against him, "I'm so fucking happy she wants to fight this out!!! She will hit the wall hard!!!" In all the years I've worked with domestic violence survivors, I've never known a single one to express *joy and excitement* in anticipation of fighting it out in court with the person who abused and nearly destroyed them. The very thought of facing their abuser in court instills dread and trepidation. They know full well they'll be re-abused and re-traumatized, and they experience extreme anxiety when they think about it.

### **Deriving Pleasure from Fantasizing about Torturing and Killing One's Abuser**

Depp was not only happy about the thought of confronting the person whom he claims abused him, he clearly derived pleasure from fantasizing about torturing, burning, murdering and then raping her. Actual survivors may wish their abusers to be held accountable and punished for their crimes, but rarely (if ever) do they excitedly describe detailed sadistic fantasies about torturing and murdering them. I've never heard such desires expressed by even one survivor. Rather, they're much more likely to express sentiments similar to Amber Heard's when she stated that she wished Johnny Depp well and hoped they can both move on with their lives.

### **Lack of empathy**

Victims and survivors tend to have great empathy. They understand emotional and physical pain, and don't wish it on anyone, usually not even on their abusers. This is why they feel sorry for them when they plead for another chance and beg them not to leave. It's also why an abuser's threats of suicide are so effective at garnering sympathy from the victim. It's not uncommon for victims to perceive their abuser to be like a "wounded little boy" who just needs to be loved. They can see how miserable their partner is and try to find ways to help them. Johnny Depp, however, is just the opposite. He doesn't show any concern for his "abuser". Instead, he dehumanizes her, never even referring to her by name, but using obscenities and expletives instead. This is very typical of abusers, as those who run BIP groups can attest. Many BIP group facilitators refuse to allow the abusers in their groups to do this, and require them to refer to their victims by their names instead. In contrast, Amber Heard uses Johnny Depp's name frequently, as most victims and survivors tend to do. She exhibits empathy for him and has described times when she forgave him following episodes of abuse after he got down on his knees, crying and begging her not to leave him. (Nearly every victim and survivor can describe similar experiences when their abuser used manipulative kindness to get something they wanted.) In a text to Depp's assistant, Amber Heard noted that she always forgave him, thinking he'd try to change. "I do this *every time.*", she wrote, and listed some of the places the couple had been when this had occurred.

### **Lack of anything good to say about the abuser**

Most survivors will at times describe their abuser's good qualities and share fond memories. They're so often judged that it's important to them that people understand he wasn't always a monster, that they weren't "attracted to an abuser". Like the general public, victims also tend

to blame alcohol, drugs, a bad childhood, mental illness, too much stress, PTSD, etc., for causing the abuse. They don't perceive their partner as "all bad". In contrast, Johnny Depp makes only mean, disparaging remarks about Heard, never anything positive. He doesn't describe her good qualities; mention happy times they had, or say anything that suggests she has any value as a person.

### **Anger is the only emotion expressed**

The predominant emotion expressed by most domestic violence survivors is not anger, but rather fear, sadness, guilt, grief and loss. Although they have every right to be angry, and may feel contempt for their abuser, anger tends to be the last emotion they give themselves permission to feel or express. Not surprisingly, survivors often think of anger as "bad" and associate anger with pain and danger because their abuser's anger was often on display when they were being abused. When and if they in turn expressed anger at their abuser by yelling or fighting back, it tended to escalate the violence. After escaping their abusers, many survivors find themselves shutting down, going numb, or disassociating when anyone yells or fights or raises their voice. This is a common symptom of posttraumatic stress. Unlike survivors, Johnny Depp has no problem at all expressing extreme anger toward Amber Heard. In fact, it is the only consistent emotion he seems to express related to her.

### **Finding Humor in the Abuser's Obvious Discomfort**

Survivors may not have much sympathy for their abuser, but they usually don't consider it funny when they are obviously suffering, or take pleasure in their abuser's misery. As previously stated, survivors tend to be empathetic and compassionate, which is why they try so hard to help their abusers and give them numerous chances to change. During the trial Johnny Depp repeatedly smirked and appeared bemused when Amber Heard was clearly distraught or upset on the witness stand.

**Enjoys the company of men who torture women** Depp's good friend is Marilyn Manson, a celebrity who is notorious for horrifically abusing and torturing women for pleasure. His deviancy and cruelty have been described in detail in a documentary by numerous who were severely traumatized by him, including the actress Evan Rachel Wood, and a former assistant who has sued him. They have described him as cruel, sadistic, sexually deviant, and a batterer who repeatedly raped, beat, and tortured them by electrocuting, biting, whipping, chasing them with axes, being made to kneel and be tied to a prayer bench and beaten. His apartment has been described by victims as containing a solitary confinement cell called "The Girls Room". Manson himself has bragged about having a "rape room". His home is decorated blood, swastikas, "vaginas everywhere", and the large spray painted word "AIDS" on the wall over his bed. A victim of abuse who has been traumatized would be psychologically terrified and triggered by such a man and such a place, Survivors of abuse want nothing to do with persons known to be sadistic abusers, or anyone who appears to derive pleasure from hurting or torturing women. They not only don't relate to such a person, they are intimidated by and afraid of them. They don't want to be reminded of their own abuse. Johnny Depp associates in a friendly manner with Manson and has admitted doing drugs with him. Only another abuser would enjoy associating with and palming around with a sadistic, cruel misogynist like Marilyn Manson.

### **Acting demanding, impatient, entitled and childish**

Behaving in a demanding, impatient, entitled or childish way is very common for abusers, who consider themselves to be superior to their partners. Depp's personal doctor has noted them, and stated under oath, "There is also an issue of patience. He is driven almost reflexively by his id. He has no patience for not getting his needs met; wants what he wants when he wants it. . . . He has no understanding of delayed gratification" and "is quite childlike in his reaction when he doesn't get immediate satisfaction."

### **Abused as a child**

Not all, but most, abusers were raised in violent homes. Depp has stated on numerous occasions that as a child, he was abused by his mother. He has acknowledged that he started to use drugs at a very early age to cope, because his home life was "not secure, safe or stable". He has described his mother as unpredictable, nevertheless he reportedly remained close to her until she died. It is not unusual for men who were abused by their mothers to be very conflicted about females and internalize misogynistic beliefs. They may crave their affection and approval but at the same time resent and distrust them. It is entirely possible that Depp was similarly conflicted about Amber Heard, accounting for his unusual extreme level of resentment and disdain for her.

### **Amber Heard: Victim/Survivor Indicators**

#### **What is known about Amber Heard that is similar to other victims and survivors of domestic violence?**

Didn't initially consider herself a victim

Was confused about why she was being treated so badly

Protected her partner by denying he was abusing her

Didn't want to hurt her partner by being forced to talk about it in court (*'I thought no one was advising him in his best interests, always surrounded by yes men and nobody was saying this is crazy, don't do this. I didn't want to hurt him. I loved him so much. That's why I'm explaining why I didn't file a police report. I didn't want this to hurt Johnny.'*)

Called the police after a described rampage, assault & injury but declined to make an official report

Stayed with him after being abused because she thought he'd change (Texted after being kicked "I always stay. Always believe he's going to get better ... And then every 3 or so month, I'm in the exact same position.")

Can describe very detailed and specific incidents of abuse

- *Johnny slapped me across the face and got a hold of my neck and pushed me up against the wall of the car. It was a small narrow sleeper car.*
- *'He was standing on the floor. I was trying to get his arms off my neck and he was squeezing my neck for what felt like a very long time.'*
- *Every time he'd pull me away from the car he'd slam me up against the wall.*
- *I remember trying to get his arms off my neck and remember thinking he could not even mean to kill me'*
- *'I remember being scared he wouldn't even mean to do it. Clawing at him, trying to get his arms away from my neck.*

- *At one point he ripped the top of my shirt, I had a breast exposed.*
- *I pull at the lapel of his shirt and he rips the shirt off of him and wraps it around my neck and that's how I woke up the next morning,*
- *I woke up with it still around my neck and a giant knot in the back of my head'.)*

Has referred to "the Monster" that comes out when he is abusing drugs

Applied or and was granted a restraining order against him

Asked the judge to order him to anger management

Asked the judge to order him to stay away from her small dog

Does not have a well known history of frequent explosive rages during which she breaks and smashes things

Has not gone on multiple day drug benders

Has not been arrested for destroying property and forced to pay for the damages

Has not been placed under a restraining order by a judge after abusing a partner

Doesn't have a reputation for routinely abusing extraordinary amounts of mind altering drugs

Didn't try to isolate her ex partner

Hasn't befriended and doesn't enjoying spending time with someone suspected and accused of torturing, raping and beating multiple former intimate partners.

Hasn't made specific threats about wanting to hurt her ex partner

Hasn't been suspected of abusing former intimate partners

Hasn't screamed in the face of her ex-partner, "I'll fucking kill you."

Hasn't described to a friend ways she'd like to torture and kill her ex partner

Didn't ever publicly discuss her ex partner's abuse until he sued, forcing her to testify

Doesn't seem to enjoying the public attention the trial has generated ("It brings me great pain to see our past life in front of the world", "It is the most painful and difficult thing in my life")

Doesn't appear to smirk, laugh or derive pleasure when watching her ex partner testify

Hasn't ever claimed she has never hit a man

Hasn't denied ever hitting her intimate partner

Was not the predominant aggressor in the relationship (didn't start the fights or abuse)

Didn't hit or throw things at her partner unless he was already acting violently (These were acts of self defense, or "resistive violence" and not acts of aggression. They're normal responses to being abused.)

Was forced to defend loved ones that were being threatened by her partner

Has expressed remorse because she wasn't able to save her marriage

Has expressed emotions other than anger and hatred toward her ex partner

Sometimes speaks in positive terms about her ex partner ("I have always loved him."; "He's the love of my life.")

Can describe many specific and detailed assaults by partner

Doesn't have a pattern of saying horrible things about her exes or calling partner vulgar names

Fears her ex partner, as evidenced by statements under oath, and observable body language

Has stated that while she was being assaulted by her ex partner, she believed she was going to be killed

Has not spread viscous rumors about her ex partner

Did not file suit against her ex partner until he sued her

Hasn't tried to destroy her ex partner's reputation

Hasn't released derogatory press statements denying she hit her ex partner  
Didn't sexually assault or rape her ex partner  
Hasn't been audio or video recorded being abusive  
Didn't frequently accuse her ex partner of being unfaithful  
Hasn't been suspected of abusing other former partners  
Doesn't have a history of getting sexually involved with teenagers  
Has expressed empathy for ex partner ("Hopefully I can move on and Johnny can move on")  
Has verbally expressed fear of ex-partner and has unconsciously demonstrated it with body language (flinched and backed up in court when he was coming towards her)  
Exhibits multiple symptoms of PTSD related to her ex partner's abuse of her (per expert witness)

Did not want to sue him or have to talk about the details of their relationship in court for all the world to hear. This is typical of victims, not abusers." "I was begging Johnny to not make me prove what I've had to sit on the stand and prove and talk about it." "To have to sit where I'm sitting today. I didn't want this; I don't want to be here today." "I was trying to point out how absurd it would be for him to keep making me prove this by calling me a liar. I was trying to get him to not call me a liar because everything I'd said is the truth. I was begging him not to make me prove it

The above is only a partial list. Nevertheless it is a significant one. When comparing the list that describes Johnny Depp to the one describing Amber Heard, the enormous differences are undeniable and it becomes glaringly obvious who is the abuser and who is the victim. It also becomes clear that most of the expert witnesses who testified have no sophisticated understanding of, or real expertise in the area of domestic violence and intimate partner abuse. In fact, it has been suggested by at least one expert witness that the marriage dynamics represented a case of mutual abuse. For this to be the case, however, the partners would have to have equal power, and the predominant aggressor would be impossible to determine. This case could not be any less like mutual abuse.

What is revealed by comparing the lists is a textbook example of domestic violence. There is a clearly discernible *pattern of coercive controlling behavior exercised by one intimate partner over the other*. Depp's behaviors are represented in black and white on the Power and Control Wheel, which is the gold standard graphic illustration for teaching about what domestic violence looks like in a relationship.

While the trial expert witnesses have been expert in their various professions, other than the psychologist that assessed Heard, it is apparent by their testimony they don't understand the complexities of domestic violence, what it is and isn't, the differences between a survivor and a perpetrator, and normal survivor responses and behavior. Abusers don't always DO the same things, but they nearly always believe the same things –that they are superior, entitled to exercise power and control over their victim, have the right to punish them and that their actions are justified. Multiple forms of abuse may occur in domestic violence. Neither physical nor sexual abuse is required, as has been noted.

What I have found stunning is how all this illustrates a typical domestic violence relationship, how much Amber Heard reflects a typical survivor and the fact that Johnny Depp's reported behavior matches all but one category of abuse described on the Power and Control Wheel.

(That category, Using the Children, wasn't possible because there were no children in the home.) For this to be the case, and yet for SO FEW people (both involved in the trial and not) to not recognize it for what it is not only mind boggling, it is extremely disturbing. Even the obvious escalation of Depp's abusive behavior in both frequency and severity over time has not been noted despite the fact that Heard has indicated that it began with non-physical abuse such as jealousy and false accusations of infidelity, then escalated to slaps, shoves and punches, sexual assault and eventually threats to kill her.

### **SURVIVOR BEHAVIOR: HOW VICTIMS CHANGE OVER TIME DUE TO FEAR AND RESENTMENT**

I've already noted the many things that indicate that Amber Heard is a classic survivor of domestic violence. Domestic violence victims live in a culture of violence and abuse, and that changes a person in dramatic ways. *As a result, over time, victims may have to do all kinds of things to survive – things that they likely would never have done had someone not been abusing them.* This includes those experiencing post-separation abuse or harassment who are being dragged through courts by their abusers. Like hostages who can see no way out, they may lie, manipulate, or do other things we don't understand. We call these SURVIVAL BEHAVIORS. Amber Heard has been accused of lying and overacting, and perhaps she has. I don't know. If she did these things, it's no doubt because she's sick of being misbelieved and vilified. Whether these accusations are true or not, it doesn't change the fact that she's been abused by Johnny Depp, who himself lied under oath by denying he's ever abused a woman. It seems the public is more concerned and fixated on a victim's survival behaviors than about the abuse she has described.

Many victims and survivors are ashamed and embarrassed about things they've said or done when reacting to abuse. They may not like the people they have become. Others may not find them very likable, either.

Amber Heard doesn't present as appealing or fun. Rather, she appears humorless, reserved, negative, even boring; not like someone who would make most people exclaim, "Oh, wow. She's awesome. I want to meet her and hang out with HER!" That's what abuse does to a person. My guess is that she wasn't always like this. She's probably very different from the young woman that fell in love with Johnny Depp, a man who clearly found her very attractive, alluring and desirable and had qualities he admired. After dating many, many beautiful, accomplished women, he chose Heard to marry.

Victims may do some of the same things abusers do such as hit, slap, deny, lie, etc., in response to abuse. This should come as no surprise. Yet, instead of saying things like, "My God, it's terrible how Johnny Depp's abuse has changed her.", the general reaction of the public seems to have been, "My God, what a lying bitch!". "She's acts crazy!" which translates to, "No wonder he abused her! She'd drive anyone nuts!" They've gotten it completely backwards. This victim-blaming phenomenon is one of the reasons so many of them are arrested for domestic violence. They do it because they're afraid. They do it because they're so sick of being treated like shit. It's how the violence has changed them. It's survival behavior. By contrast, Johnny Depp is just as charming, attractive, relaxed, upbeat and fun as he ever was BECAUSE HE HASN'T BEEN CHANGED BY ABUSE.



When he found her attractive, more, if not most, of his fans probably did, too. But now that he not only isn't attracted to her, but seems repulsed by her, his fans are, too. They don't just "not believe her", they seem to hate and despise her with the same level of passion he does. I believe this, more than anything else, explains the incredible backlash she has experienced, and the visceral, unbridled vitriol and ridicule being hurled at her by millions of complete strangers. Maybe they're not consciously thinking, "If Johnny hates her, then so do I. There must be a good reason. I love him, so I should hate her, too. After all, she seems so unlikeable. He must be telling the truth." This is all despite the fact she hasn't traumatized him or done anything to try to ruin his life like he has hers. This is also why they attack those who believe Amber Heard, and will hate me and what I've written.

### **Common Survival Behaviors AND Trauma Symptoms of Victims often Misinterpreted as "Abuse"?**

#### **Fear and Resentment Survivor Responses to Abuse**

**Seeking outside support** – talking to friends about it, going to counseling, having an affair with some who treats them with kindness

**Seeking protection** – going to the neighbors for help, calling the police, taking out a protective order using a weapon to protect herself, going to a shelter, getting a divorce  
Increased verbal assertion- yelling, screaming, matching the abuser's behavior

**Emotional avoidance** not wanting to have sex with him or be close to him because she doesn't feel tender towards him anymore

**Physical avoidance** leaving, staying in another room when possible (reading, painting, watching T.V., spending time on the internet to distract her from thinking about the abuse), trying to stay out of his way, especially if he's abusing substances, the tension is high, or he's escalating

**Anger outbursts**- striking out at the abuser, hitting, slapping, throwing things at him (like bottles), having mini meltdowns that make her look crazy, taking revenge somehow (putting poop in his bed out of resentment)

**Denying/minimizing/Blaming** – lying about the abuse, denying it, blaming herself for it

**Changed mental health** – suicidal thoughts, threats, attempts, depression, anxiety, insomnia, anorexia, Self-medicating drinking, using drugs to escape,

So, while Johnny Depp's behaviors are abuser tactics on the **Power and Control Wheel**, none of Amber Heard's behaviors are represented there. Hers are on the **Common Fear and Resentment Survivor Responses to Abuse** list. She admits hitting Depp out of self-defense, did things out of fear or resentment, not because she had the desire for power and control. Labeling Amber Heard as an abuser, a perpetrator of domestic violence is not only incorrect, it is unjust. Nevertheless, the entire premise of Johnny Depp's lawsuit hinges on the claim that Heard is lying, and the abuser.

Even if we didn't have the above lists to tell us she's not lying, it would be extremely unlikely if she were. This is because research tells us that while false allegations do occur; they are rare, accounting for only 2% to 10% of all abuse reports. In reality the vast majority of assaults are never reported. Victims are embarrassed, afraid of retaliation and fear that they'll be accused of lying. They also know making a report would require recounting the horror of the event and

sharing intimate details with total strangers. Amber Heard is now experiencing every one of those consequences, even though she didn't name Johnny Depp in her article and didn't want to talk about it. But because she has, she has been inundated by a tidal wave of abuse and even death threats from strangers, forcing her to hire a professional security service to keep her safe.

The re-victimization of survivors can sometimes be as or more devastating and traumatizing than the abuse itself. Women rarely benefit by reporting abuse, particularly by a beloved public figure. Amber Heard knew this, and so did Johnny Depp. What is happening is called Post Separation Abuse, a very common tactic of domestic violence perpetrators. The mere fact that he would choose to use such a cruel tactic, harassing and suing and purposely working hard to destroy someone he once claimed to love is evidence enough for me that he's not the good person people think he is. No decent person would go to so much trouble to cause another person such misery.

I really didn't have an opinion about these two people when I started looking into this, because I didn't know much about either of them. As I read about them both, though, my eyes really started opening when I began to read about Johnny Depp's history, relationship patterns, public and private behavior, statements, and text messages, and then observed his behavior and demeanor in court, it started to create a picture of who the man is. After examining the facts and considering the entirety of what I now know, I've come to the unmistakable and unequivocal conclusion that Johnny Depp's not only no domestic violence victim, he's in truth the exact opposite, an abuser with classic abuser beliefs, classic abuser attitudes, and classic abuser behaviors.

Perhaps the biggest obstacle for those who love Johnny Depp and are convinced he couldn't possibly be an abuser is the fact that he just doesn't look like one. He seems like a nice, mellow guy. But anyone who really understands the complexities of domestic violence knows this is typical of most abusers, and is why victims so often are accused of lying. Those of us who have been immersed in this work for decades have learned that whether he is a Sunday school teacher or police officer or Boy Scout leader, or a Little League Coach, abusers usually have this one thing in common - they are the guy next door. Despite common stereotypes to the contrary, men who abuse their wives or girlfriends are generally not sloppy, beer guzzling good ole boys in wife beaters, or muscle-bound, tattoo-covered bikers. Instead, they are more likely to be charming, polite regular guys who, inside the privacy of their homes are unpredictable, controlling tyrants. Because they appear to be nice, regular, normal acting guys elsewhere, they're assumed to be that way at home, too. Intimate partner abuse is a way of life. As I've said, it doesn't stem from substance use, stress, or mental illness as many believe, but a deeply held and unshakable belief that one is superior to and entitled to control and treat their partner as they choose.

What the legions of global Johnny Depp's star struck fans just don't seem to understand is there is simply no evidence he is anything like the beloved characters he plays. The person suing Amber Heard isn't some rakish pirate or sympathetic creature with scissorhands, and what they're bingeing on is no harmless miniseries. Hiding in plain sight is the real Depp, inwardly cunning and vindictive but outwardly charming and delightfully quirky.

Johnny Depp is a very, very good actor. Right now in court, he's playing the role of a lifetime as the besieged, beleaguered victim of an unstable, lying, manipulative, gold-digging bitch who's trying to destroy his life. Unlike most abusers, though, his acting chops, endless amounts of privilege, extraordinary global fame and vast personal wealth have provided him the ability to choose the stage and the players, and to write his own lines. I believe for him, this is a challenge and a game. He's determined to beat her, no matter what it takes, this time in a very different way. Apparently he's doing an Oscar worthy job. In supporting him instead of Heard, his supporters are playing right into the hand of a man who, according to all the evidence, is no one's victim. Instead he is a good looking, smooth, walking talking Power and Control Wheel. His supporters are so celebrity blinded they don't see that their idol is *playing* a battered man.

I'm hoping the time spent doing an informal review will contribute to a better understanding of the Depp-Heard relationship and domestic violence in general, including what it is and isn't, how to recognize it, why it happens, and important considerations for distinguishing between abusers and victims. I know if the police involved had been provided comprehensive training, many cases like Gabby Petito's might have turned out differently. We just have to do better.

The trial strategy used by Depp's team is one used by abusers every day in courts all across America to turn the tables on victims by having them arrested, getting restraining orders against them, and undermining them in custody proceedings. It's known as DARVO - **DENY Attack {then} REVERSE (the) VICTIM and the OFFENDER**". There will always be abusers and attorneys who re-abuse victims by using DARVO in court. There will also always be people like Johnny Depp's supporters who want to argue, deny, and deflect attention from victims and the grim realities of sexual and intimate partner abuse. If we allow them to drive the dialog or divert our focus from the abusers to their victims instead, though, pathologizing and dissecting them piece by piece, the abusers win. As Judith Herman, MD wrote in her classic book, Trauma and Recovery, the Aftermath of Violence--from Domestic Abuse to Political Terror, "In order to escape accountability for his crimes, the perpetrator does everything in his power to promote forgetting. If secrecy fails, the perpetrator attacks the credibility of his victim. If he cannot silence her absolutely, he tries to make sure no one listens. . . It is very tempting to take the side of the perpetrator. All the perpetrator asks is that the bystander do nothing. He appeals to the universal desire to see, hear, and speak no evil. The victim, on the contrary, asks the bystander to share the burden of pain. The victim demands action, engagement, and remembering."<sup>1</sup>

Believing accusers and holding perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault accountable takes courage, commitment and persistence. It means we must give up the comfort of our denial, acknowledge that our heroes are imperfect (and can even be criminals), stop expecting victims to act the way we think they should, listen to their painful stories and stand with them to demand justice. No wonder so many people choose to believe Johnny Depp instead of Amber Heard. It's just so much easier to do nothing.