

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *Child Sexual Abuse: The Gag Order Has Been Lifted*

**Two newly released movies, *Doubt* starring Meryl Streep and Philip Seymore Hoffman and *Gardens of the Night* starring Tom Arnold, address the subject of child sexual abuse. Child Sexual Abuse Expert and Prevention Advocate, Stephanie L. Jones, breaks the silence about child molestation within families.**

Detroit, MI – In her bold book *The Enemy Between My Legs* author, Stephanie L. Jones, **tackles the taboo subject of child sexual abuse.** In what the press has called, “A well written revelation and a must read for every man and woman,” readers are allowed uninhibited access to the heart and soul of a sexual abuse survivor. **Jones shares her own story of the ongoing impact of seven years of child molestation.** The damage done in her childhood resurfaces in her teenage and adult life causing promiscuity, substance abuse, and difficulties in maintaining relationships.

“It’s very challenging to tell a young person to abstain from sex once they’ve been sexually abused. My first sexual experience was at age five. I had been touched, kissed, and fondled so much as a child that by 13-years-old, I didn’t want it to stop,” says Jones.

Jones is not alone. **One in three females and one in five males are sexually abused.** According to the organizations Darkness to Light and ChildHelp.com, the effects of child molestation extend far beyond the years of actual abuse. A few statistics:

- 66% of teen pregnancies and abortions are preceded by sexual assault.
- 96% of teen prostitutes are sexual abuse victims.
- 75% of rapists were sexual abuse victims.

“Sexual abuse is a taboo subject,” says Jones. “When it *is* discussed, people tend to think of internet predators, neighborhood pedophiles, and strangers lurking in the park. But most sexual abuse takes place right in our homes. We must address what’s happening in our very own families.”

*The Enemy Between My Legs* summoned painful memories for Jones, but by writing it she turned the negative experiences of her youth into something positive—a **guide for parents seeking to protect their children.** The book also helps adult sexual abuse victims understand how those experiences might still be affecting their lives.

New for Jones is her **blog at [stephanieljones.wordpress.com](http://stephanieljones.wordpress.com)** in which she addresses the tough issues surrounding child molestation, including: abortion, infertility, and teen pregnancy. She will also be contributing to an upcoming collection of hope-inspiring essays, *Sistahfaith: Believing Beyond the Shame*, a Fall 2009 release from Howard Books: A Division of Simon & Schuster.

*Stephanie L. Jones is a child sexual abuse expert and a sought-after speaker for schools, churches, and organizations. Her book, *The Enemy Between My Legs* became an **ESSENCE magazine best seller in October 2008.** Contact 313.493.0001, [media@stephanieljones.com](mailto:media@stephanieljones.com), or visit [www.stephanieljones.com](http://www.stephanieljones.com).*

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