

010 Christine

Christine is the heaviest of the early Warrior Women, her obesity representing a form of self-victimization triggered by experiences beyond her control.

Healthcare practitioners have long suspected that childhood abuse -- emotional, verbal, physical, sexual -- could result in potential risk factors contributing to serious weight issues later in life. However, the link to adulthood obesity has not had as much attention as the suspected link between childhood sexual abuse and childhood obesity. Scientific studies are now recognizing and testing the hypothesis that childhood sexual abuses and traumas can be significant risk factors in the development of adult eating disorders, extreme obesity, and Body Dysmorphic Disorder.

Obviously, not every woman who has struggled with her weight has experienced childhood sexual abuse, but to me Christine represents the countless females in our society who exhibit physical manifestations of surviving various forms of childhood abuse, particularly sexual. Although there is a wealth of anecdotal evidence regarding this correlative link, it is just beginning to be explored scientifically.