Italian Chocolate Torte

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Cake: 1 pkg. pudding included, butter flavor chocolate cake mix
1 (3.9 oz.) pkg. instant chocolate
fudge pudding/pie filling
3/4 cup water
1/2 cup margarine/butter, softened
1/3 cup water
4 eggs

Topping: 2 cups whipping cream
2 Tbsp. brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
3/4 cup finely chopped pecans
3/4 cup miniature semi-sweet chocolate chips
24 maraschino cherries, chopped drained on paper towels

Grease and flour three 9 or 8-inch round cake pans. Layers can be baked one or two at a time if three pans are not available. In large bowl, beat all cake ingredients at low speed until moistened or beat 2 minutes at high speed. Spread evenly in greased and floured pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes or until toothpick in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes; remove from pans. Cool completely.

In another large bowl; beat whipping cream until soft peaks form. Blend in brown sugar and vanilla; beat until stiff peaks form. Fold in pecans, chocolate chips and chopped cherries. To assemble cake, place 1 layer on serving plate. Spread with 1/3 of whipping cream mixture. Repeat with remaining layers and whipping cream. Do not frost sides of cake. Garnish with maraschino cherry. Store in refrigerator.

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References: The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence;
The Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION
Presents
THE HEARTH FIRE SERIES #29

Woman to Woman.........
"Why Should Love Hurt?"

"I could not believe it was happening. The next morning my eye was swollen shut and half my face was bruised. He looked at me and said he did not remember doing that. I told everyone at work I had been in a car accident."
(Renee, 60, a survivor)

"He made me lay on the floor for hours. I stayed there and pretended to be asleep so he would not get angry." (Sue, 78, a survivor)

"I was a college graduate and I had pretty good self-esteem, but he was so smart and subtle in under-mining my confidence in myself. It took me a long time to realize what was happening." (Jan, 47, a survivor)

The Hearth Fire Series has been awarded the NEHC Seal of Approval
"I did not realize until I talked with other women after I went to work that they did not hand over their entire paycheck to their husbands. I did not even have enough to buy a cup of coffee."  
(Opal, 39, a survivor)

These women are all victims of Domestic Violence. The ages of the women vary as well as the educational, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds of each. Any woman may be abused. Abuse is not the woman's fault. They did not cause the abuse. They cannot stop the abuse. Women don't "ask for it."

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic Violence comes in different forms, but the goals of the abuser are to gain power and control and that sometimes lead to violence. Types of abuse are emotional, economic, sexual, using children, threats, using male privilege, and intimidation or isolation.

Are you abused?  
Ask yourself:  
Does the person you love....  
Threaten you or your kids?  
Embarrass or make fun of you in public?  
Say it is your fault when he hits you?  
Promises it will not happen again?  
Pull your hair, push, hit, kick or pinch you?  
Force you to have sex when you do not want to?  
Keep you from seeing your family/friends?  
Tells you there is no way you can make it on your own?  
Does he "keep track" of you? Check your mileage?  
Control all the money and make you account for every cent?  
Criticize you for little things?  
Accuse you of being unfaithful?  
Use or threaten to use a weapon against you or your children?

Volunteer in a domestic violence program.

Set up training at your church, your work or within your organization to learn more about domestic violence and the children who are victims.

LET ABUSERS KNOW THE COMMUNITY CONDEMNS THIS BEHAVIOR!

You are a survivor when:  
You stop blaming yourself for the violence  
You begin to feel good about yourself,  
You understand that if you are to take care of your family, you must first take care of yourself,  
You recognize that your feelings are legitimate,  
You know "you" deserve respect,  
No one treats you in an abusive manner.

"I'm starting to feel like myself again, a real person. I lost myself for a while. I didn't like myself. I am not about to give up on me again."  
(Alice, 57, a survivor)

BREAK THE SILENCE

The National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-799-SAFE
This is a toll free number - 24 hours - 7 days a week with crisis intervention and referrals to a Domestic Violence program in your local area.

All 50 states have a Domestic Violence Coalition. Call your local authorities for information.

The Domestic Violence Coalition phone number for my state is: __________________________

SAY NO! TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
Why do women stay?
“Why doesn’t she just leave?”
How often have we heard or even said that? Consider the following reasons women may stay in an abusive relationship.

☑ 75% greater chance of being killed when leaving rather than staying
☑ Have at least one child
☑ Feel they cannot support themselves and family
☑ Do not “own” anything by themselves
☑ Fear of losing custody
☑ Do not believe in divorce
☑ Feel they are responsible for “making it work”
☑ Feel that there is nowhere to go
☑ Blame their batterer’s abuse on stress, alcohol, drugs
☑ Believe him when he says he will change, “he’s basically a ‘good’ man.”

FACTS
Typically, domestic violence against women is considered a “Woman’s Issue.” Yet it is certainly a man’s issue because men commit the majority of violence against women and lose respect as well.

⚠ The March of Dimes states that battering is the leading cause of birth defects.

⚠ 1/3 of all pregnant women have been battered throughout their pregnancy.

⚠ Statistically, women will return to the abusive partner an average of 5-7 times before permanently leaving.

⚠ Domestic Violence cases require up to approximately one third of law enforcement’s time.

It is only within the past two decades that domestic violence laws have been legislated. Before, the police would typically separate the abuser from the victim by having the victim leave home and stay with family or friends as if it were her fault.

Today, the victim will be told she can go through the court system and apply for a petition for Ex-Parte (Order of Protection). If a petition is granted, the victim may stay in her own home and the abuser will have to leave until the hearing before a judge.

ABUSED? DON’T BEAR IT ALONE
What should you do if you are in a domestic violence situation?
At the first sign of domestic violence—

1. Get out
2. Call the police
3. Apply for an Ex-Parte (Order of Protection)
4. Don’t blame yourself, you didn’t cause the abuse
5. Contact an advocate, church or support group. These are the short answers to difficult questions. A person cannot control what happens to them but can control their reaction.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY LAW

Make a Safety Plan.
Deciding to leave an abusive relationship can be difficult. It may take you time to decide to leave. You do not have to wait for an emergency to ask for help. You can call a women’s shelter for help in making a safety plan (you do not have to give your name). Discuss the plan with your kids. Teach them how to call or go for help or which neighbor to contact. Have a “code” word or signal for use in an emergency. Make your children or friends aware of what the code word is in case you can not talk “openly.”
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