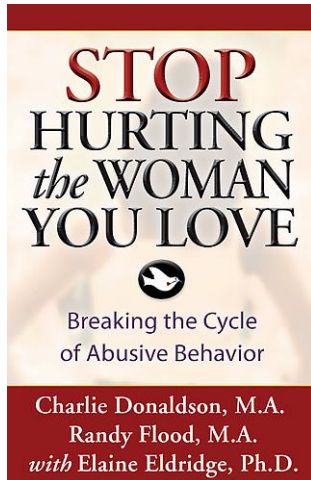


## Technical shoptalk → reader-friendly writing

### Multiple writers → a single voice

Writing *Stop Hurting the Woman You Love* required translating Charlie and Randy's clinical experience in counseling abusive men and supporting cognitive behavioral theory into reader-friendly prose. In addition to filling in numerous blanks in the original draft with examples and cases studies, I made their different styles sound like one voice.



*Elaine joined us as a writer, but she contributed above and beyond in challenging Charlie and me conceptually and theoretically as well as grammatically.*

Randy Flood

*I thank Elaine for her exceptional writing and organizational skills, and for her persistence in seeking excellence.*

Charlie Donaldson

#### So we went from something like this:

They all suffer from dysfunctional masculinity, defined clinically masculiphathic men. These men suffer from arrhythmicity, that is, through their male training, they lost the range of emotions that creates emotional rhythm in life and relationships. These men are typically stoic, emotionally detached individuals who emphasize toughness, dominance, competition, and physical prowess. They lack development in their emotionality, therefore are left only with thoughts and behaviors to function. This creates problems for us as men in particularly in our intimate relationships with women.

#### to a reader-friendly style that conveyed the same ideas, like this:

The boy or man who risks stepping outside the box by showing some of the characteristics listed at the left also risks being called names. You already know these names; you've heard them before. You usually don't say them unless you want to insult another man or perhaps tease him. Dare to step outside the box, and you will be belittled by all the terms commonly used to shame a man or boy who violates the male code the box describes. If, like Ron as a boy, your eleven-year-old son cries when he's struck on the elbow by a baseball during a Little League game, he'll be called names such as *sissy*, *fag*, *mama's boy*, *girl*, *wimp*, *crybaby*, *scared*, *queer*, *wuss*—the list might not be endless, but it's long. You may have called him some of these names yourself.

Kivel's point is unmistakable: if you want to be a man, you must stay inside the box and live according to the characteristics listed there. Because showing fear or emotion has traditionally been considered unmasculine in our society, any boy or man who displays such "weakness" is asking to be