

A handbook (re: harassment) for anyone working on any job.

**HOW TO AVOID/HANDLE/LITIGATE OVER SEXUAL  
HARASSMENT**

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**By**

**Nance H. Parry**

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**“Toto, we’re not in Kansas any more...”**

## **Chapter I**

Who hasn’t heard the strains of “Hooray for Hollywood” without wanting to board a train and come to the Land of Fruit and Nuts? Paradise, some call it. Maybe. It’s also a place where The Wolves dwell in the Hollywood Hills waiting for the unsuspecting neophytes to sweep in, wide-eyed, and fattened for the kill. Prey – nothing else.

But, you’re not in La-La Land, you say? You’re just a secretary (accountant, waitress, salesgirl, etc.) in the boonies of this star spangled country? The same kind of behavior happens in Podunk, believe me. Predators are predators, wherever they may be.

To keep going with my Tinsel Town scenario – to tell some Sweet Young Thing to be careful, while she’s drooling over Carol Lombard’s footprints in Grauman’s forecourt (and dreaming of the day hers will be placed there...) is to inevitably have your warnings fall on deaf ears. If she hangs around long enough, she’ll learn – the hard way. Hollywood – or anywhere in our country, these days – is no place to be trusting.

Truth, love and Mom's apple pie may exist in the Heartland of our vast country, certainly not on the Sunset Strip. And probably not in the realm in which you find yourself being sexually harassed. But then, you've figured that out, right?

Wannabes, trying to make their dreams come true. It's the stuff of legend. The American Dream brought forth a new kind of predator – the sexual harasser.

Not new, you say? Grandma and Great Grandma had to deal with it when they tried to bring in money to help support their families by going to sweatshops and sewing for long, hot, grueling days. True. But, as our culture got more sophisticated, and women were allowed entry into other businesses, more harassers appeared using more sophisticated forms of harassment.

Sexual harassment has existed in virtually every industry for as long as recorded history. It certainly isn't peculiar to Hollywood. Hollywood, however, has its own opportunities for a special kind of harassment.

No secretary will ever be asked to read a love scene with her boss (complete with blocking [touching, kissing, etc.]). No salesgirl must strip before being hired. Yet in Hollywood, it is not uncommon to stand in a casting office/agent's office/producer's office and find yourself being molested, all the while hearing the excuse, "You're a little chubby. I need to see how much weight you should lose for this role."

Nowadays a new wave has begun. Thankfully, people are beginning to realize that demanding sexual favors in return for work is not only wrong, it's illegal. A few brave pioneers are making their complaints in lawyer's offices and at the Department of Employment and Fair Housing, nailing The Wolves who've preyed on them.

For each victim who comes forward and names names, the chances of others being made to suffer the same fate is less and less. An idea whose time has certainly come.

It's up to you to decide just how much you can afford to sacrifice in order to keep your job, whether in this frightening economy or at times when jobs are more plentiful. Your flesh, your peace of mind, and your legal rights are too much to ask. But you will be asked, for that and more.

Hollywood lures unsuspecting victims into its clutches with the promise of fame, money, and power. But now, more than ever before, women are being seduced by high paying jobs in a variety of fields. Jobs that entice with prestige, impressive salaries, and power. No job is without its Wolves, though. Read on...

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