

# Former resident's labor of love has come 'Full Circle'

## Hopes book will be able to help those in need

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VIENNA, VA. — For one former Mt. Vernon woman, a 12-year labor of love has come around right where it started.

"Full Circle," written by Susan Monaco of Vienna, Va., is a fiction novel about domestic violence and the struggle for the strength to leave an unhealthy situation.

Through her book, Monaco said she hopes to be able to help those in need who might see themselves in the pages.

"I hope it teaches them to put the past behind them and move forward," Monaco said.

Monaco had lived in Mt. Vernon for eight years during the 1970s and attended both J.L. Buford School, Casey Junior High and Mt. Vernon Township High School before moving to the Washington, D.C. area with her family.

She said she came with the idea through her own marriage as well as watching friends go through similar experiences.

"I had a marriage to a man who had a bit of a dark side," Monaco said of her past. "I got to a point where I was scared."

Though most of the abuse against her was verbal, Monaco said her marriage was not as extreme as some of the other horror stories of domestic violence

### For Your Information:

"Full Circle" is available at Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com, among other retailers.  
For more information about Monaco and her novel, you may log on to her Web site, [www.susamonaco.com](http://www.susamonaco.com).

victims.

How she was able to escape was a matter of finding peace of mind.

"I wasn't in a horrible situation, not like some of what you hear," she said. "So many people think and ask themselves, 'How do I get out? I just got to the point where I didn't want to live like that anymore.'"

Now a single mom with a 5-year-old, Monaco is now pursuing a literary career, trying to publish magazine articles and writing more novels.

"Full Circle" chronicles the life of Abby Montero, a smart, independent woman who must overcome several ghosts in her past. A victim of domestic violence and rape, Abby meets a man who allows her to learn to trust again.

Raymond Matthews convinces her to marry him "by making her believe that he can give her back the dreams she had long ago abandoned," according to the book's Web site.

The problem is Raymond has a "dark side" but Abby battles with the idea that she has made the wrong decision in choosing her husband. She doesn't want to believe he is a monster. She wants the same life as her parents, who have been happily married for

years.

The statistics of domestic violence incidents in this country are staggering. According to [endabuse.org](http://endabuse.org), approximately 960,000 incidents of domestic violence occurs each year.

A 1998 Commonwealth Fund survey states that nearly one-third of American women have reported being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives.

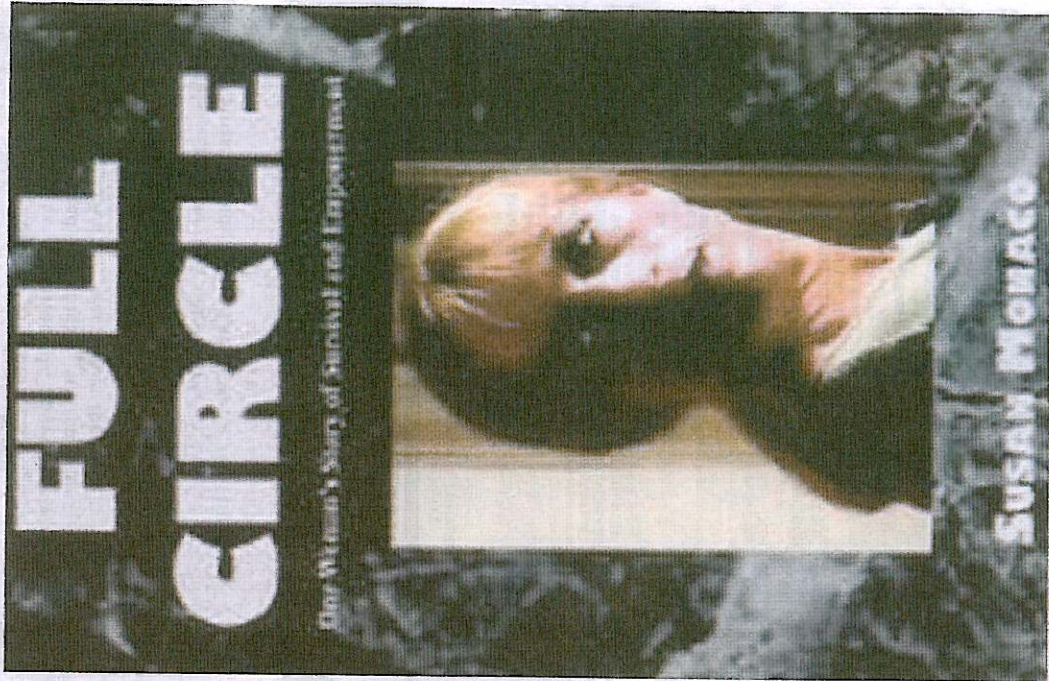
The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence said there were 114,921 domestic violence reported in 2006 in Illinois alone, including 38 related homicides and 1,639 involving children.

Approximately 44 percent of domestic crimes are committed by a spouse or ex or common-law spouse.

Violence is also expensive. The estimated cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for medical and mental health services for the victim.

She is also working on a sequel to "Full Circle," a read that is highly anticipated for many readers, she said.

"There is I have had people who have constantly asked me when I was going to write another," she said.



"Full Circle," written by Susan Monaco of Vienna, Va., chronicles the story about a domestic violence abuse victim's struggle to "leave the past behind and move forward." Monaco lived in Mt. Vernon during her youth and attended the city school system before moving to the Washington, D.C. area with her family. SUBMITTED PHOTO