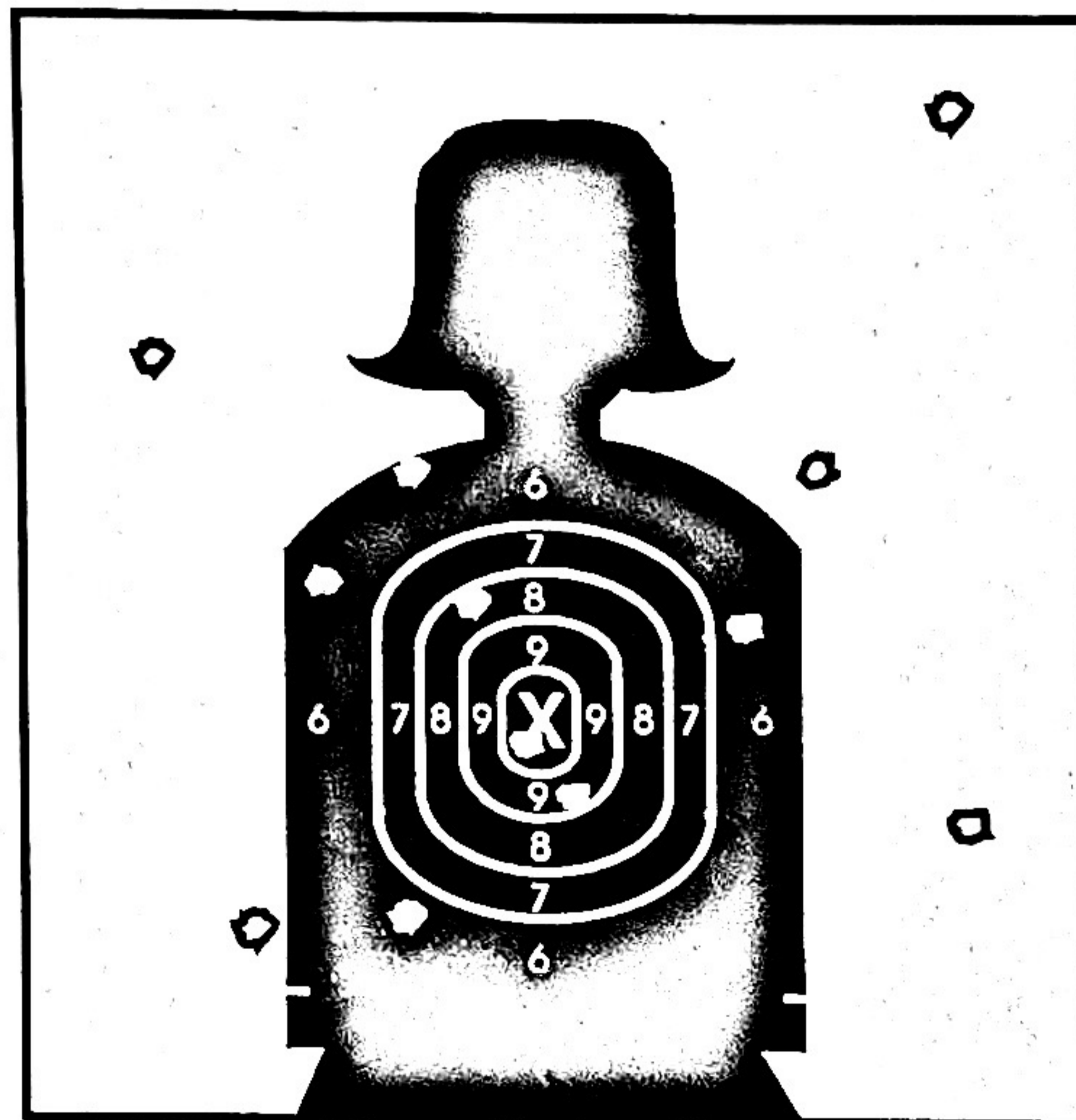


FEMALE PERSUASION

A Study of How the Firearms Industry Markets to Women
and the Reality of Women and Guns



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for every time a firearm in the home was used in a self-protection homicide, 37 lives were lost in gun suicides, 4.5 lives in gun homicides, and 1.3 lives via unintentional gun deaths—or 43 deaths for every self-defense homicide.⁶⁴

On the national level, using the FBI's own figures, in 1992 for every time a citizen used a handgun in a justifiable homicide 48 lives were ended in handgun murders. By including the estimated 12,500 handgun suicides that occurred that year, the ratio jumps to 95 to one.

Keeping in mind the campaign being waged to convince women that their security rests in firearms ownership, the crucial question that must be posed is: Is there a measure of how often, in truth, women save their lives by using guns in self-defense? An equally important question is: How many women have lost their lives through the same instrumentality?

Because the National Crime Victimization Survey figures do not offer a breakout by gender, the only information available comes from data collected for the FBI's *Uniform Crime Reports*. As detailed in the previous charts, from 1978 to 1991 American women used firearms in justifiable homicides a total of 480 times. However, during the same period 73,543 American women lost their lives in firearm suicides, homicides, and unintentional injuries. Comparing these two figures, for every time a woman killed with a gun in self-defense, 153 women were killed through the use of a gun.

According to unpublished Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) 1992 justifiable homicide statistics, for every time a woman used a *handgun* to justifiably kill a *stranger* in self-defense, 239 female lives were ended in handgun *homicides* alone. Additionally, in 1992 37 states reported *no* instances of handgun justifiable homicides by women, including New York, Georgia, North Carolina, Maryland, and Virginia. The ratio of homicides to justifiable homicides in states in which both