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# NEWS RELEASE

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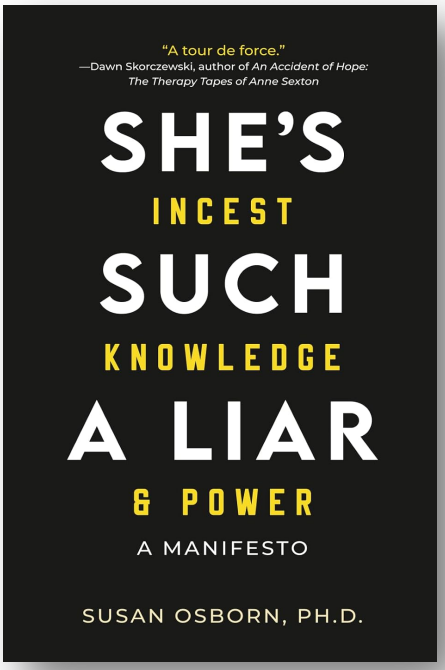


## *She's Such a Liar: Incest, Knowledge & Power*
## A MANIFESTO

SUSAN OSBORN, PH.D.

***The Hidden History of How Institutions Shape Knowledge, Credibility, and Power***

*She's Such a Liar: Incest, Knowledge & Power* offers a groundbreaking interdisciplinary examination of how societies understand and respond to disclosures of harm, showing how medicine, law, psychology, and culture have shaped both those responses and what societies know, believe, and act upon.

Using incest as a lens, Susan Osborn examines how authority and institutional power shape what societies recognize as truth. Drawing on historical research, feminist scholarship, and survivor-centered perspectives, *She's Such a Liar* traces how ideas about credibility, evidence, trauma, and memory have been constructed, challenged, and transformed over time.

The book argues that contemporary debates about institutional trust, survivor credibility, and accountability are deeply rooted in historical systems that determined whose experiences were believed, whose expertise carried authority, and what counted as legitimate evidence. Those patterns extend far beyond sexual violence, illuminating how institutions respond to contested truths, and shape public understanding.

At a time when confidence in institutions is under intense scrutiny, *She's Such a Liar* provides essential historical context for understanding how assumptions about credibility, evidence, and expertise developed—and how that history can inform more accountable, compassionate, and effective responses to people who disclose harm.

Written for readers interested in medicine, psychology, history, law, ethics, public health, women's and gender studies, sexual violence, and social justice, the book invites a broader conversation about the relationship between knowledge and power, the responsibilities of institutions, and the enduring consequences of whose voices are heard—and whose are dismissed.

*Digital review PDF and print review copies available upon request.*

## Suggested Podcast & Interview Topics

- How institutions decide what counts as knowledge
- Institutional trust, betrayal, and accountability
- Credibility, evidence, and the politics of belief
- Survivor credibility and institutional response
- What history teaches us about building more trustworthy institutions
- How medicine has shaped public understanding of sexual violence
- The history of trauma, memory, and evidence
- Medicine, law, and the production of knowledge
- Why historical perspectives matter for today's healthcare professionals
- Feminist scholarship and changing understandings of sexual violence
- Feminism and gender

*She's Such a Liar: Incest, Knowledge & Power* offers a new framework for understanding how institutions create, sustain, and challenge knowledge—and why those histories continue to shape contemporary debates about credibility, accountability, expertise, and power.

## About the Author

**Susan Osborn, Ph.D.** is an award-winning educator, cultural critic, and author of *Surviving the Wreck*, *Elizabeth Bowen: New Critical Perspectives*, and *She's Such a Liar: Incest, Knowledge & Power*. She is director of The Writing Center of Princeton.

## Advance Praise

*"In this clear-eyed and incisive work, Susan Osborn exposes the powerful machinery of disbelief that preserves hierarchy, suppresses knowledge, and undermines justice. She calls for a collective reckoning with the systems that make truth dangerous—and shows why confronting those systems is essential to creating institutions worthy of trust."*

—Jennifer J. Freyd, PhD
Professor Emerit, University of Oregon; founder of the Center for Institutional Courage; originator of the concepts of Betrayal Trauma and Institutional Betrayal

*"Brave, incisive, and grounded in extensive research, Susan Osborn names the truth most institutions refuse to confront... Long overdue, this is an unflinching call to confront the entrenched systems that protect abusers and silence survivors."*

—Regina M. Calcaterra, Esq.
*New York Times* bestselling author of *Etched in Sand*