

Torture

The infliction of... to afford sadistic pleasure...

An entire life in the ellipses, trying to tell a friend, a teacher,
trying to convince, then speaking no further.

Learned helplessness is the term, as in the experiment
with the dogs, shocked when approaching a wall, so even when
the wall is gone, the notion of freedom is too
painful to imagine. Free? What's that mean, when her stepfather
built a room adjacent to the trailer for one single purpose?
He had an idea and tools and a will, and so the walls went up, and she
was in it, tortured there for years by him and his friends.
That's the method: when it ends, it doesn't end.