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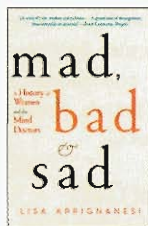


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the guide BOOKS

inherent in all of these crazy episodes. Her story about calling a phone-sex hotline to feed her adolescent curiosity is funny on its own, but adult Julie's cynical narration just feels redundant. This is the problem with many of Klausner's tales throughout the memoir—the imposition of her present dating savvy on her past mishaps only makes the stories seem less funny than they actually are. You'll laugh at some of her memories, but you'll also wish Klausner had let the previous incarnations of Julie speak for themselves. [ELIZA THOMPSON]



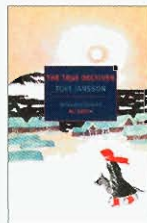
MAD, BAD, AND SAD: A History of Women and the Mind Doctors
By Lisa Appignanesi
(W.W. Norton and Co.)

Prolific author and scholar Lisa Appignanesi's latest nonfiction work expertly weaves together mind-bendingly extensive research with deft storytelling ability. From early approaches to

understanding "madness from the point of view of the sufferer" to today's interrelated "psy" fields, the book ambitiously and thoroughly traces the history of mental illness—and the evolution of its treatments—through the lens of colorful, prominent women.

The book starts with writer Mary Lamb's 1796 matricide, an early case that exemplified the beginning of the now familiar notion of a link between "childhood experience and the deformations of the adult." From here, Appignanesi charts the lives of women in different eras, demonstrating how various forms of "madness" surfaced and tracing the evolution of treatments from early sanatoriums to newer diagnoses (postpartum depression is explored in the epilogue) and increasing pharmaceutical options. A particularly fascinating piece captures Sabina Spielrein, Carl Jung's patient and lover, who became a psychoanalyst herself. Appignanesi's findings reveal, not surprisingly, that new treatments bring new problems; she touches on early Prozac recipients Lauren Slater and Elizabeth Wurtzel to

show how a generation's "drug-charged highs too often descended into the terrifying and recurring lows of depression, which themselves became the target of more drugs." Appropriately, Appignanesi doesn't attempt overarching solutions, ultimately allowing her case studies to contribute to the ongoing conversation about what constitutes mental illness and the ways it is treated. [LIZA MONROY]



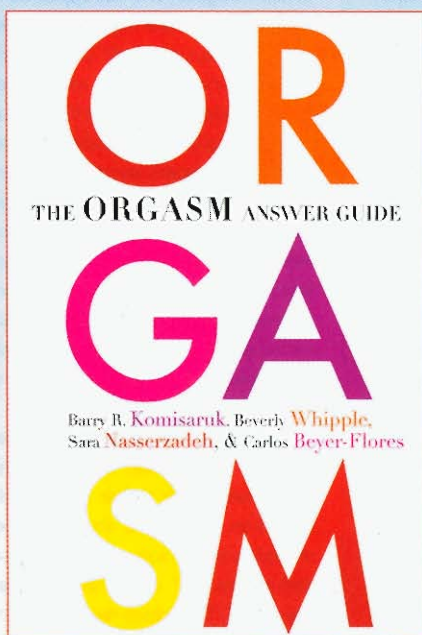
THE TRUE DECEIVER
By Tove Jansson,
translated by
Thomas Teal
(NYRB Classics)

In literature, there are quirky novels that try hard to stand out. And then there are different novels, which come from a mind with a unique point of view and can't help but show us something new.

In this sense, Tove Jansson has the advantage of being from a different time and place, born in Finland in 1914. She was best known for her Moomin comics, absurdist tales about a family of what look like upright hippos. But *The True Deceiver*, published in 1982 and only now translated into English, is definitely an adult novel, albeit a deceptively simple one. In it, Katri and Anna live in a seaside village, empty outside of tourist season. Katri is the town misfit, an orphan living barely above the poverty line. Anna, born into wealth, is an elderly illustrator of children's books featuring flower-printed bunnies. Using a trumped-up string of robberies as an excuse, Katri insinuates herself into Anna's life, house, and finances.

Jansson's quiet writing style works because of its honesty. She deals with seemingly mundane subjects—money, irritation, petty dishonesties—to show that our everyday interactions form the basis of our philosophical view of the world. Much of the plot centers on Katri taking over Anna's accounting, not usually a topic to inspire passions, but it showcases the clash between Katri's suspicious nature and Anna's willful blindness. Throughout, Jansson weaves in a subtle suspense that leaves readers uneasy because we're never quite sure of its cause. And every time the narrative seems to be heading in a conventional

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