



# Mad, Bad, and Sad: A History of Women and the Mind Doctors

*Lisa Appignanesi*

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“[A work of] wit, wisdom and richness. . . . A grand tour of derangement, from matricide to anorexia.”  
—John Leonard, *Harper's*

This fascinating history of mind doctors and their patients probes the ways in which madness, badness, and sadness have been understood over the last two centuries. Lisa Appignanesi charts a story from the days when the mad were considered possessed to our own century when the official psychiatric manual lists some 350 mental disorders. Women play a key role here, both as patients—among them Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Plath, and Marilyn Monroe—and as therapists. Controversially, Appignanesi argues that women have significantly changed the nature of mind-doctoring, but in the process they have also inadvertently highlighted new patterns of illness.

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