



Mad Love (French Modernist Library)

By André Breton

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Mad Love has been acknowledged an undisputed classic of the surrealist movement since its first publication in France in 1937. Its adulation of love as both mystery and revelation places it in the most abiding of literary traditions, but its stormy history and technical difficulty have prevented it from being translated into English until now.

"There has never been any forbidden fruit. Only temptation is divine," writes André Breton, leader of the surrealists in Paris in the 1920s and '30s. *Mad Love* is dedicated to defying "the widespread opinion that love wears out, like the diamond, in its own dust." Celebrating breton's own love and lover, the book unveils the marvelous in everyday encounters and the hidden depths of ordinary things.

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Mad Love (French Modernist Library) By André Breton Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Breton, father of the surrealist movement, saw that the basic problem of making a living could interfere with love as well as poetry. Love, for the French poet, had to be transformed into a powerful emotion that put the lover in touch with the marvelous. The focus of this transformation, in his own case, was artist Jacqueline Lamba, with whom he lived in New York, Mexico and Marseilles. *L'Amour fou* (1937) is convoluted and stilted when it sets forth his surrealist philosophy of "mad love," romantic and sometimes incandescently lyrical when it presents autobiographical reminiscences. Included is a moving letter Breton wrote to his daughter ("I want you to be madly loved"). This first English-language translation of the surrealist text is also the first volume in the French Modernist Library.

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From Library Journal

In this definitional essay of 1936, Breton, then 40, indulged in another explicit, autobiographical illustration of Surrealism. Despite his title, he does not sacramentalize sex; rather, he evokes special moments in his life since *Nadja* (1928), epiphanies intensified by his receptive search for instructive, fortuitous juxtapositions. He concludes with a letter to his eight-month-old daughter, whose appealing infancy stimulates his most tender and vehement thoughts on humankind. Translator Caws provides a masterly introduction and annotation, and the original visuals are nicely reproduced: six photographs by Man Ray, three by Brasai, and one each by Cartier-Bresson, Dora Maer, and Rogi Andre. Marilyn Gaddis Rose, Comparative Literature Dept., SUNY at Binghamton

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Review

"Mad Love is a bizarre, beautiful book. It is a novel, an autobiography, a manifesto--a highly unusual hybrid or, better yet, a 'miracle of rare device.'... [Breton] has seduced me. I have tried to make sense, using words, of his longings. I am in love with this book, but like Breton, I cannot explain my deep, irrational responses."-
-Review of Contemporary Fiction

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carla Spiegel:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a reserve your ability to survive improve then having chance to stand than other is high. For you who want to start reading a book, we give you this particular Mad Love (French Modernist Library) book as basic and daily reading book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

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George Eichner:

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