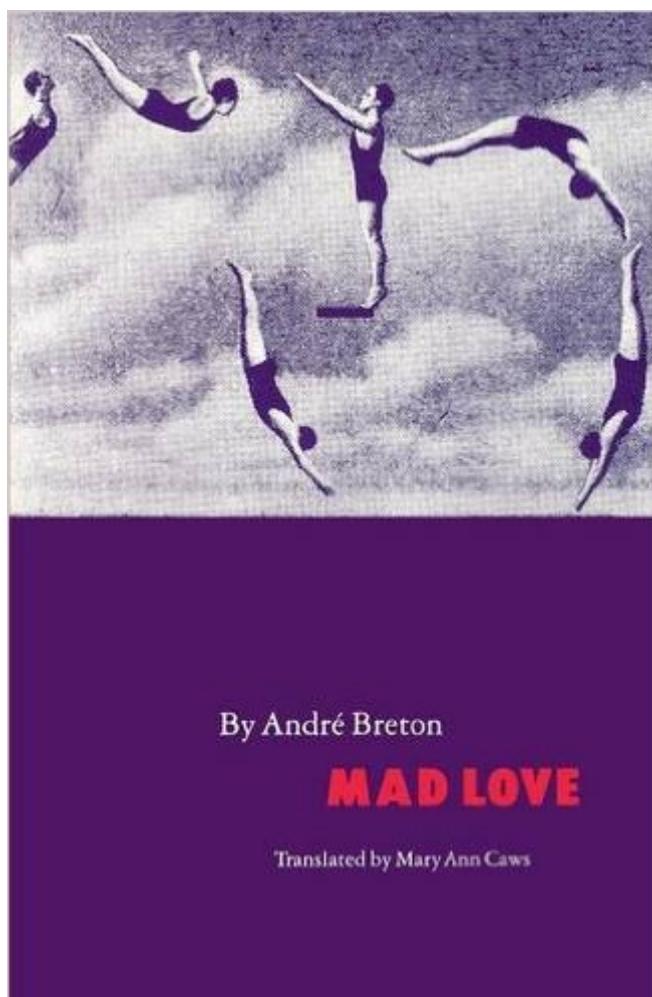


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Mad Love (French Modernist Library)



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

Series: French Modernist Library

Paperback: 131 pages

Publisher: Bison Books; Revised ed. edition (October 1, 1988)

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 x 8.5 inches

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Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #192,621 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Modernism #81 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > European > French #2164 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Customer Reviews

I found it fairly difficult to make it through most of this book. I should add, difficult yet rewarding. The first few sections reminded me of "Nadja" with their seemingly meaningless description of mundane activities. As I went through the book I realized, as I did with "Nadja," that these opening chapters are essential to establishing both the attitude and ideas of the story. As I got further and further into it I found that the concepts were easier to grasp and the text easier to read and I must admit that I was frustrated with the first part of the book and certain other parts that I felt were irrelevant to the subject or just plain annoying. But as I finished the last chapter it all came together for me and I felt the entire concept and reasoning of the book was elucidated in the end. A book I probably would

have given 3 stars to for the first half surprised me with its beauty and genius in the end. This book is essentially essays and ideas elucidating Breton's concept of "Mad Love." It was written for his love interest at the time and some parts of the book include her or speak of and to her but a lot of it is directed to the reader. His beautiful imagery and abstract description drag the reader through his bizarre ideas. As the "story" (there really is no narrative in this book) builds on itself and the essence of the blossoms in your mind, you just might find yourself with a new idea of love. In the end I felt very rewarded with this new idea of love and almost felt like a better person for it. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the Surrealists or Andre Breton. I do not recommend this for people looking for an easy read or people who haven't read any other Breton.

Andre Breton's Mad Love is truly a work of art. Written in a surrealist manner it celebrates love and lovers. It finds beauty in such ordinary things such as iron masks, spoons, and trees. Never has there been another book that promotes romanticism such as this. Bravo Breton! You have made me proud to be a person in a monogamous relationship. It is a true celebration of the heart and of the soul.

Monotonous and banal is what one Norwegian reader claims this story to be and nothing will change his opinion. Sad point of view that misses the mark and the underlying message of this magical book on a quest for what may save a world about to collapse... Is Andre Breton really "bombastic, dull, overrated"? The story is hard to follow because its very personal but he is always telling of objects, events that are meant to make the reader see...What? Find out by yourself. Even if Breton's style might be long, baroque, intricate and slowly winding through the pages, the message is a thunderbolt: a clean deep powerful thought on what life really can offer anyone who wishes to love someone unconditionally. Sounds romantic or boring? Ask your love.

my favorite book of all time.

My friend and I literally spent twenty minutes taking turns kicking a copy of this book until it was in pieces.

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