



Meeting the Madwoman: Empowering the Feminine Spirit

By Linda Schierse Leonard

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The Madwoman is a powerful psychological and emotional energy that lives in us all—both men and women—and speaks to us all, inhabiting our dreams, our lives, our collective cultural memory. Ignored or suppressed, she becomes a force of self-destruction; acknowledged and understood, she becomes a source of creativity and power. In this remarkable and revolutionary book, Linda Schierse Leonard explores how we can overcome the inner turmoil of contemporary life—unexpressed rage, the buildup of guilt and anxiety—by harnessing this primal expression of our natural instincts.

From Medea to Ophelia to *Thelma and Louise*, the paradox and patterns of “madness” are as old as time. But the chain can be broken; the Madwoman within each of us can and must be freed, openly expressed, and transformed into a source of constructive, creative energy. Leonard draws upon an extraordinary range of sources—ancient myths and fairy tales, films and literature, contemporary and historical women’s lives—to design a model of empowerment for women today.

With its fresh perspectives and bold insights, *Meeting the Madwoman* is a provocative work of profound cultural significance, one whose ideas are sure to resonate for years to come.

Praise for *Meeting the Madwoman*

“A book loaded with practical insights that’s also fun to read . . . With refreshing originality, Leonard reverses some traditional perceptions.”—*New Woman*

“A vigorous exploration . . . Throughout, Leonard writes passionately, seeing the Madwoman as an empowering symbol and the discovery process as a spiritual exercise—a kind of purification and ultimate triumph of the feminine spirit.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This richly evocative study by a Jungian analyst posits the existence of a madwoman archetype. The image appears frequently in women's dreams, according to Leonard (*The Wounded Women: Healing the Father and Daughter Relationship*). And she makes a good case that the madwoman is a messenger, metaphor and model who points the way to women's liberation. The author encourages women to acknowledge their own madwoman in order to transform themselves. She intriguingly redefines many female stereotypes--The Dark Muse, The Recluse, The Bag Lady, The Visionary, The Caged Bird--in relation to her archetype. What is especially interesting here are the examples from famous women, literature, films and Leonard's own patients. The most remarkable include Camille Claudel, Alma Mahler, Maria Callas, Rosa Luxemburg and Rachel Carson--as well as the imaginary Medea, Mrs. Bridges, Blue Angel and Thelma and Louise. Leonard also shows how some of the real women she writes about were influenced by the fictional or mythical women. In this work, she provides a new perspective on how women can break out of culturally imposed roles.

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From Library Journal

Feminine madness entraps women in traditional, patriarchal roles, keeping creativity captive to repressed anger and fear. Jungian analyst Leonard (*On the Way to the Wedding* , LJ 6/15/86; *Witness to the Fire* , Shambhala, 1989) employs her talent as storyteller to treat us to yet another book on psychological archetypes. Mad energy is wasted on archetypes such as the saint, the ice queen, the dragon lady, the sick mother, the caged bird, the muse, the rejected lover, the bag lady, the recluse, and the revolutionary. She explains the archetypes of contemporary women as well as those of representative women in history (Camille Claudel as the muse); in films and novels (*Thelma and Louise* as revolutionaries, *Mr. and Mrs. Bridge* as caged bird); and in mythology and fairy tales. Leonard uses more examples than theorizing to make complex Jungian concepts understandable, accounting for her readability and popularity. Her latest book will certainly prove to be as successful as the others.

- *Paula N. Arnold, Norwich Univ. Lib., Northfield, Vt.*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tim Walton:

The book *Meeting the Madwoman: Empowering the Feminine Spirit* gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make reading a book *Meeting the Madwoman: Empowering the Feminine Spirit* to get your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You could know everything if you like start and read a publication *Meeting the Madwoman: Empowering the Feminine Spirit*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this reserve?

Isaias McGee:

The reason why? Because this Meeting the Madwoman: Empowering the Feminine Spirit is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will surprise you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such remarkable way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book have such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I had been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

David Smith:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Meeting the Madwoman: Empowering the Feminine Spirit, it is possible to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout people. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Ralph Sanchez:

The book untitled Meeting the Madwoman: Empowering the Feminine Spirit contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the woman idea with easy way. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was authored by famous author. The author will take you in the new period of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open up their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice study.

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