



Mad Mary Lamb

By Hitchcock, Susan Tyler

Hardcover. Condition: New. Ships From Canada. New in new dust jacket. Sewn binding. Cloth over boards. 352 p. Contains: Illustrations. Audience: General/trade. From Publishers Weekly One afternoon in 1796, Mary Lamb, aged 31, killed her mother with a carving knife at the dinner table. Like Kathy Watson in her recent *The Devil Kissed Her: The Story of Mary Lamb*, Hitchcock diagnoses manic-depression at the heart of Mary's matricidal act and her subsequent stays in Britain's early mental asylums. Hitchcock (*Coming About: A Family Passage at Sea*), however, is far more willing to speculate about the gaps in the record of Mary's life, not to mention her thoughts and feelings as she regained something like a normal existence after the murder, which was judged an act of madness. Despite eventual bestselling collaborations with her brother, essayist Charles Lamb, in *Tales from Shakespeare* and *Poetry for Children*, Mary left an erratic documentary trail, with only one significant personal essay, which Hitchcock sees as pro.



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Reviews

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