



Creating Hysteria: Women and Multiple Personality Disorder

Joan Acocella

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DESCRIPTION

From 1985 to 1995 an estimated 40,000 Americans, most of them women, were told they suffered from multiple personality disorder. Feminists, fundamentalists, and a substantial portion of the mental health community endorsed this "Sybil-ing" of America. Sensation-seeking television talk shows took up the MPD rallying cry. In *Creating Hysteria*, Joan Acocella tells a riveting tale of therapists betraying their patients, of a psychotherapy profession at war within its own ranks, and finally of ex-patients rising up and putting an end to the MPD scandal.

"*Creating Hysteria* exposes one of the most frightening mental rollercoaster rides taken by thousands of people in modern times. Joan Acocella brilliantly illuminates how the mental health profession spearheaded, perhaps inadvertently, a fin-de-siecle hysteria, the fallout from which will take us into the next millennium. Anyone who has ever been interested in mental health should read this book."--
Elizabeth Loftus, president, American Psychological Society

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JOAN ACOCELLA coauthored the textbook *Abnormal Psychology: Current Perspectives*, now in its eighth edition. A staff writer for *The New Yorker*, she is the author of *Mark Morris* (1993) and the editor of *The Diary of Vaslav Nijinsky* (1999).

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