



WHO EATS

IN A CAGE?

A CAGED

OR WITH

MOUTH?

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THE NEW SERIES

#67

ANNE BOYER

GARMENTS
AGAINST
WOMEN

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“The books she had obtained, were soon devoured, by one who had no other resource to escape from sorrow, and the feverish dreams of ideal wretchedness or felicity, which equally weaken the intoxicated sensibility. Writing was then the only alternative, and she wrote some rhapsodies descriptive of the state of her mind; but the events of her past life pressing on her, she resolved circumstantially to relate them, with the sentiments that experience, and more matured reason, would naturally suggest. They might perhaps instruct her daughter, and shield her from the misery, the tyranny, her mother knew not how to avoid.”

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT
FROM *MARIA: OR, THE WRONGS OF WOMAN*

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THE ANIMAL MODEL OF INESCAPABLE SHOCK

If an animal has previously suffered escapable shock, and then she suffers inescapable shock, she will be happier than if she has previously not suffered escapable shock—for if she hasn't, she will only know about being shocked inescapably. But if she has been inescapably shocked before, and she meets the conditions in which she was inescapably shocked before, she will behave as if being shocked, mostly. Her misery doesn't require acts. Her misery requires conditions.

If an animal is inescapably shocked once, then the second time that she is shocked she is dragged across the electrified grid to some non-shocking space, she will be happier than if she isn't dragged across the electrified grid. The next time she is shocked, she will be happier because she will know there is a place that isn't an electrified grid. She will be happier because rather than only being dragged onto an electrified grid by a human who then hurts her, the human can also then drag her off of it.

If an animal is shocked, escapably or inescapably, she will manifest deep attachment for whoever has shocked her. If she has manifested deep attachment for whoever has shocked her, she will manifest deeper reactions of attachment for whoever has shocked her and then dragged her off the electrified grid. Perhaps she will develop deep feelings of attachment for electrified grids. Perhaps she will develop deep feelings of attachment for what is not the electrified grid. Perhaps she will develop deep feelings of attachment for dragging. She may also develop deep feelings of attachment for science, laboratories, experimentation, electricity, and informative forms of torture.

If an animal is shocked, her body will produce an analgesic. This will involve endogenous opioids. This will be better than anything. Later, there will be no opioids, and she will go back to who and what has shocked her looking for more. She will go to the shocking condition—"science"—and there in this condition she will flood with endogenous opioids, along with cortisol and other arousing inner substances.

Eventually all arousal will feel like shock. She will not be steady, though, in her self-supply of analgesic. She will not always be able to dwell in science, as much as she now believes she loves it.

That humans are animals means it is possible that the animal model of inescapable shock explains why humans go to movies, lovers stay with those who don't love them, the poor serve the rich, the soldiers continue to fight, and other confused, arousing things. Also, how is Capital not an infinite laboratory called "conditions"? And where is the edge of the electrified grid?