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Lindsey Tucker. *Textual Escap(e)ades: Mobility, Maternity and Textuality in Contemporary Fiction by Women.* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1994. 160 pp. $49.95 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-313-29156-2.

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The title of Tucker's book is a play on words that describes her theoretical approach to feminist literary criticism. "Escap(e)ades" is meant to suggest an "escapade," a wild activity not usually associated with women. "Escape" is what some women writers do when they move beyond what Tucker describes as "patriarchally derived literary models" to achieve a "thematic and stylistic emancipation."

Using a number of texts ranging from Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* to the lesbian writing of Luce Igiraray and Monique Wittig, Tucker traces both the way in which female characters are given a "mobility" in the narrative and the way in which the authors themselves break free of narrative conventions and structure.

Tucker uses the psychoanalytical theories of Lacan and Freud to discuss the ideas of the female subject and otherness. She deliberately selected women writers for her study whose writing could be characterized as both feminist and postmodern in an attempt to reconcile the problem of how to categorize these works.

Tucker provides a way of understanding the relationship among a variety of texts that would initially appear to have little in common. Hers is a useful interpretive tool for examining the work of feminist writers.

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