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Mothers of Incest Survivors: Another Side of the Story. Janis Tyler Johnson.

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BOOK NOTES

Janis Tyler Johnson. *Mothers of Incest Survivors: Another Side of the Story*. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press, 1992. \$20 hardcover.

It is difficult to examine familial sexual abuse scientifically not only because it is an emotionally laden subject but because it is a secret subject. Johnson's in depth ethnographic study of six mothers whose daughters were victimized is, therefore, an important one. She reports on the experiences of these mothers, using their own words, and describes how they discovered the secret of incest, how they responded and why they kept it secret. Johnson challenges the belief that most mothers collude to aid and abet the father's sexual abuse of the daughter. She shows how complicated the dynamics of incest are and urges professionals to listen to the different ways of 'knowing' about incest that a mother may have. She shows professionals how to be truly responsive to the mother's experiences and to provide meaningful help.

John Swain, Vic Finkelstein, Sally French and Mike Oliver (Eds). *Disabling Barriers: Enabling Environments*. London: Sage Publications, 1993. \$22.95 papercover.

This edited book is intended to serve as a textbook for Britain's Open University. Unlike many other textbooks, it does not survey the field of physical disability but instead examines the way disabled people themselves are taking control over their own affairs. The majority of chapters are written by disabled people and this, the editors point out, is compatible with the book's primary objective which is to demonstrate that disabled people are playing a much more active role in formulating policies and designing services to meet their own needs.

The book illustrates how the barriers which society has created for the disabled can be overcome through an attitude which emphasizes the enabling environments which disabled people are creating for themselves. Those who work in the field of disability need to understand this new dynamic. To make a positive contribution, they must see the world from the