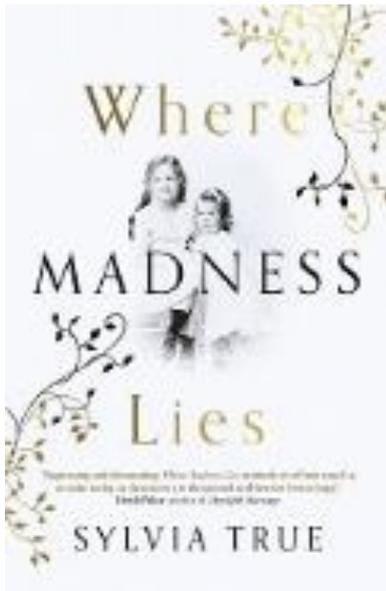


***Where Madness Lies* – Sylvia True**



It is the year 1934 in Germany. Inga's sister Rigmor is suffering from depression and psychosis. It's a time in which people suffering from mental illnesses are frowned upon. Inga and her mother Frieda have tried several doctors and treatments, but to no avail. Then Inga comes up with a new plan. They have to find Rigmor a friend, someone she can talk to and perhaps even fall in love with. Inga chooses psychiatrist Arnold for this. Hesitant at first he accepts and gets involved in Rigmor's life, leading up to her being institutionalized at Sonnenstein Castle in Pirna. Will Rigmor be okay?

Then it is 1984. Inga flies to the United States after hearing that her granddaughter Sabine has been admitted to a mental hospital. Sabine is also suffering from depression and psychosis. Inga desperately wants to help her granddaughter and make sure that she escapes the fate that her sister Rigmor had to endure. Even if it means bringing back tormenting memories. At the hospital she meets her great-granddaughter Mia. Will Sabine be able to hold on to Mia?

This is the gripping story told by Sylvia True in *Where Madness Lies*. I was entranced by it from the beginning to the end. The incredible sadness of it all, but still leading to that hopeful ending.

A story packed with lessons from history. Did you know that Sonnenstein Castle actually served as one of the extermination centres during World War 2? The castle was used as a home for patients suffering from mental illnesses since 1811. In 1940 a gas chamber and crematorium were installed, which were used until the end of 1942. Up to 15.000 people were killed there. *Where Madness Lies* starts a little before that. At that point they were 'only' sterilizing their patients. 'Only'. As if that is not horrible enough.

This is a book everyone needs to read to get a better understanding of people suffering from depression. The combination of the historical point of view and the more recent developments give a great insight in what those people go through. It doesn't only show the symptoms of their mental illness, but it also paints a clear picture of the distrust and scepticism other people show towards their illness. Trust me, it has been like that and it still is.

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