DISEASES OF THE WILL
Alcohol and the Dilemmas of Freedom

While associated with comfort and pleasure, alcohol continues to be a 'problem' substance, both for medical and political authorities and for many drinkers. In this broad-ranging and innovative historical-sociological investigation, Valverde explores the ways in which both authorities and individual consumers have defined and managed the pleasures and dangers of alcoholic beverages. She explores the question of free will versus determinism and how it has been challenged by ideas about addiction, morality and psychology during the last 150 years. Drawing on North American, British and other sources, the book discusses topics including nineteenth century 'dipsomania', the history of inebriate homes, Alcoholics Anonymous, fetal alcohol education and liquor control. It will appeal to readers in legal studies, criminology, sociology, psychology, social theory and the history of medicine.

MARIANA VALVERDE is Professor of Criminology at the University of Toronto. She has also lectured in the Sociology and Women’s Studies departments at the University of Toronto. Her previous books include The Age of Light, Soap and Water (1991) and Sex, Power and Pleasure (1985). She has co-edited and contributed to several other titles and published numerous articles in journals such as Social History, Economy and Society and Studies in Political Economy.
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Alcohol and the Dilemmas of Freedom

Mariana Valverde
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