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SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED. By Thomas McGuane. 173 pages. Random House. \$14.95.

OTHER WOMEN. By Lisa Alther. 336 pages. Knopf. \$15.95.

love of Emily, who had shot to death her doctor-husband for mistreating her. When Emily ran off with her ranch-hand, Lucien decided to woo back Suzanne by turning the ranch into a luxurious resort, though Suzanne, her "famous optimism" gone is suspicious

HE scene of Thomas