



The Wolfman and Other Cases

Sigmund Freud , Gillian Beer (Introduction) , Louise Adey Huish (Translation)

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When a disturbed young Russian man came to Freud for treatment, the analysis of his childhood neuroses—most notably a dream about wolves outside his bedroom window—eventually revealed a deep-seated trauma. It took more than four years to treat him, and "The Wolfman" became one of Freud's most famous cases. This volume also contains the case histories of a boy's fear of horses and the Ratman's violent fear of rats, as well as the essay "Some Character Types," in which Freud draws on the work of Shakespeare, Ibsen, and Nietzsche to demonstrate different kinds of resistance to therapy. Above all, the case histories show us Freud at work, in his own words.

The Wolfman and Other Cases Details

Date : Published June 24th 2003 by Penguin Classics (first published January 1st 1918)

ISBN : 9780142437452

Author : Sigmund Freud , Gillian Beer (Introduction) , Louise Adey Huish (Translation)

Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Psychology, Nonfiction, Philosophy, Psychoanalysis

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Amy says

I thought Freud was full of shit by spending so much time talking about how psychoanalysis could cure constipation, but I spoke about it with my therapist and she said it was legit... I'm still skeptical, but there you go. If you're a bit constipated, get 'in conversation with your anus' and, according to Freud, your problem will be solved.

Abraão says

Valendo-se de mais falas do paciente num caso - ou casos - bem delineados, Freud utiliza sua proposição teórica para explicar inicialmente dois casos - que aparentemente são muito famosos: o caso do pequeno Hans - Ratman - e o Wolfman. Como li em inglês não sei exatamente como foi traduzido. Mas se encontra no volume 10, das obras completas da Imago.

Sugiro fortemente a leitura dos outros trabalhos iniciais, já que este é aplicado e o conhecimento básico da hipótese explicativa - ainda se valendo da permanência na incompletude infantil e processos de sexualidade mal alojados em algum sentido - para compreensão dos casos.

Sugiro para os alunos que se interessam pela área e aquisição da percepção de como um conhecimento básico pode ser alastrado para a fala em setting terapêutico - na psicanálise freudiana.

Anthony says

read this famous "history of an infantile neurosis" in v.17 of the standard edition of the complete psychological works of SF along with a handful of shorter works including "the 'uncanny'" (essay on aesthetics), "a child is being beaten" (essay on masochism) and an interesting essay that analyzes an episode from goethe's "dichtung und wahrheit"

Jilly Gagnon says

Definitely interesting, if for no other reason than seeing Freud's incredible hubris in action is something else.

Would have loved more case-history, less "this is why i'm right, see!!!!" and/or a bit of background to help unravel Freud's self-love (not THAT variety, though he'd be happy to discuss it with you...)

Medicinefckdream says

the wolf man was a fag

Kirk Johnson says

After the revelations of the last one hundred years, a common Freud reader will likely approach these case histories as innovatively structured novellas based on a true story. Guided by this notion, we have here three works of increasing skill and horror, with an epilogue that the best postmodernist couldn't see coming. In other words, put aside your Edgar Allen and your Lovecraft for the moment, and immerse yourself in gothic Viennese fiction like you've never seen before.

The least of these works is Little Hans, who tires with his insatiable need to talk of his widdler and plops, but it has the neat device of the second-hand narrator and is not to be missed. The Ratman is a queasy affair - in the best way - that will place you, especially if like me you have a history of OCD, in a well-protected but inadequate fetal position; its one weakness is its reliance on a too-familiar Freudian analysis trope. But that's just to prepare you for the Wolfman, which adds a Russian twist to the almost unspeakable dream basis of its narrative, and is steeped in dreadful atmosphere, god bless it. Then comes the epilogue, a sideways summation in the form of an English literature critical analysis of Shakespeare and Ibsen - quite enjoyable.

Preceding this comes an introduction by Gillian Beer, which is too much a summation of the main text but which redeems itself in its last ten pages. And the translator's introduction by Louise Adey Huish is geek paradise.

It's lovely to read all this in the black Penguin Classic edition, with the magnificent cover and the pages that are cheap-feeling but which somehow add to the intimacy and fireside nature of the experience.

Lupe says

This book will make you understand why Freud was and still is a controversial figure in Psychology. I found this book shed light on how Freud formed some of his wacky theories on personality development. Unfortunately, he failed to test his own personality development theory enough and the theory is now considered invalid. Never the less, the cases described in the book are still entertaining to say the least. By the end I felt like I had read a dirty comic book.

Matt says

Nietzsche lite.

Scott says

Whatever else you say about Freud, he's usually an interesting writer and that's certainly true here as he describes the cases of three patients that he treated. The way in which he applies his theories to the patient's symptoms is fascinating, though it sometimes seems a bit of a stretch.

Marissa says

Love him or hate him, you have to admit: Freud was an interesting cat. And damned if he didn't meet some interesting people on his journeys through the subconscious. This is like a travelogue of some of his most curious encounters. I wrote a paper for a Bert Cohler class about "Phobia in a Five-Year-Old-Boy" (pp. 1-122) and Bruno Bettelheim's *The Uses of Enchantment* called "Bedtime for Little Hans".

Well, I thought it was funny.

Andrew says

2.5/5.

An interesting and thought-provoking book, but unfortunately that wasn't enough supersede my dislike of it and how angry it made me sometimes with his conclusions--I just really don't agree with Freud at all, no matter how fascinating it is to follow his logic.

Still, I'm glad I read it! I can now feel like I read a substantial amount of Freud and can cross it off my list.

Ying says

i read 100 straight pages about dicks!!! i think freud was projecting his own nascent homosexuality onto his diagnosis of the patient

Zach Harris says

This book was a horrible, disgusting experience that I could not put down. Very interesting, almost addictive, but absolute disgust at any moment. The case studies were so based on the relationship between inherent sexual tendencies of man and dreams, which Freud believed contained "latent content". Would recommend this to anyone interested in either Freud himself, or for a class talking about Freudian ideas and dream theory.

Marc says

My interest and understanding seemed to go down as the page numbers ticked up in this book. Either I don't know enough about psychoanalysis and Freud's theories or he makes some ambitious leaps analytically bolstered by the confidence of hindsight. What at first appeared somewhat logical became belaboringly muddled and complicated to me in most of his case notes. Does one take much more from these cases other than repression may lead to neuroses which manifest in wonderfully convoluted, tangential streams of sublimated symbolism and inappropriate behaviors? Perhaps I was hoping for more of his theory. Or maybe I'm still coming to grips with not having killed my father, nor slept with my mother...

Thomas says

Wonderful stuff. A great demonstration of Freud's method in action, and skilfully written. It reads more like Gothic Horror than science. But then, these days it's best to view Freud in literary terms rather than scientific - after all, isn't psychoanalysis best seen as a way of telling stories about our own minds?
