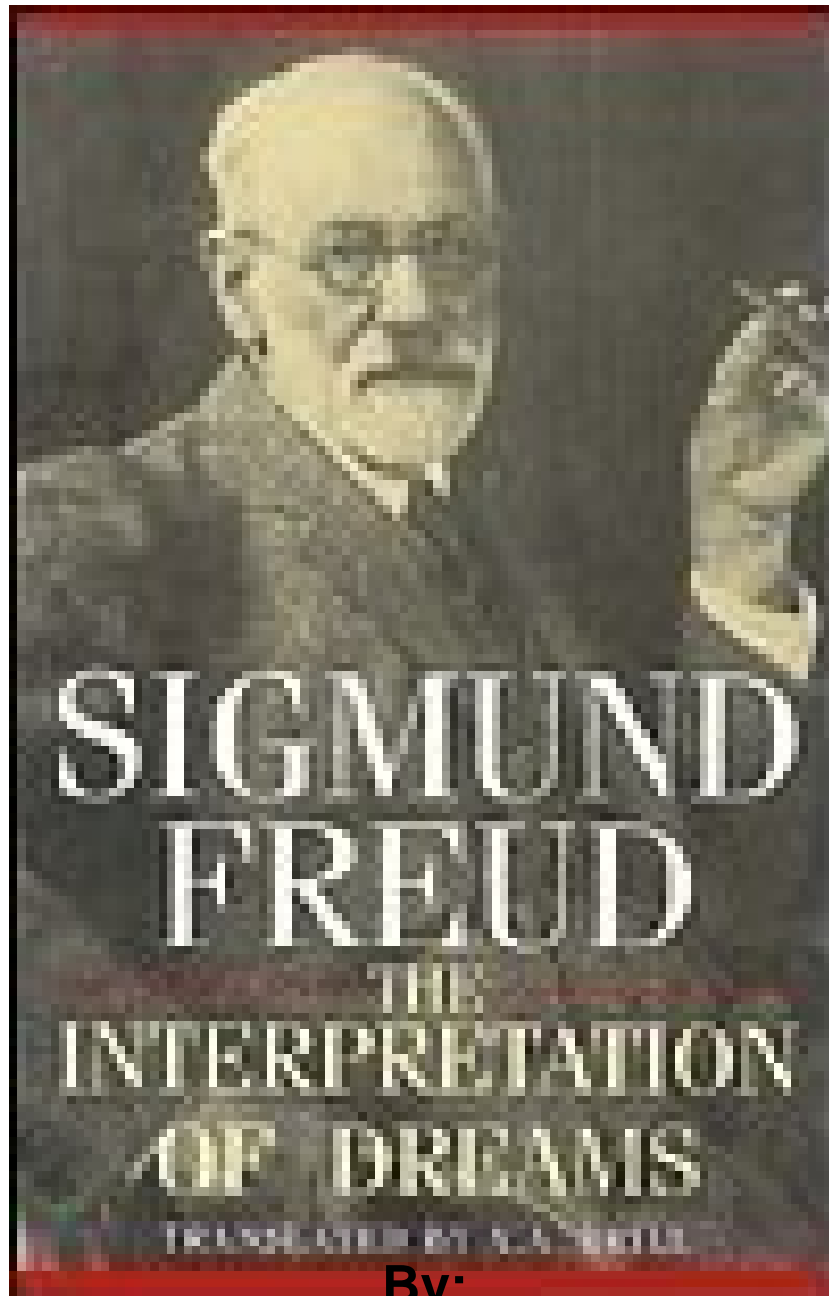


The Interpretation of Dreams Book PDF Download



By:
Sigmund Freud

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Alevtina

Wait a second. Why did I even pick up this book? Wasn't Freud like ... insane? Wasn't he absolutely and helplessly fixated on sex? Does he or does he not, label developmental stages words such as 'anal'?

Oh, that's right, I major in psychology. Typical lunatics, us psych majors.

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It saddens me, that unless you have taken psychology courses or have done a fair amount of research into the field, you hold a very narrow view of Dr. Sigmund Freud. A doctor, with a medical degree from the University of Vienna, Freud later shifted his focus to psychiatry, realizing that his patients' mental health was at risk. He truly wanted to help people. That does not come across, even in psychology textbooks. However, you can definitely feel that in this book. I was surprised to find Freud's voice as an author(translation may have affected this) quite inviting.

Many of Freud's findings about dream psychology were drawn from his own dreams. This creates a bias in his thinking. I will not deceive you, Freud did not try to be objective.

However, I read this book casually. I did not study it. I did not look for flaws. What I did do however, is enjoy it. It was actually a very pleasant read, cover to cover.

If you are interested in dreams, you will enjoy this book. Even if you don't agree with the conclusions Freud draws, I bet you will find his journey into dreams fascinating.

Afshar

I enjoyed reading Freud's book. When he speaks about dreams and their interpretation, I am reminded of a microfiction I had published years ago where the editor told me it was the weirdest story he has ever read and that a Freudian psychoanalyst would have a field day interpreting. Here it is below. If anyone would care to offer an interpretation according to Freud or any other school of psychoanalysis, I'm sure you could have some fun.

The Roof Dancer

Sidney and Sam, identical twins, crackerjack

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The Roof Dancer

Sidney and Sam, identical twins, crackerjack roofers, started work up on a roof one sultry July morning when Sam tripped on a piece of tar at the roof's peak and slid down head first. He would have plunged straight to the ground if Sidney hadn't reached over at the last moment and snatched him by his boots.

Hanging over the side upside-down, Sam had a view through a second floor bedroom window. The lady of the house was completely naked. Her ample rear end was bobbing and swinging to a polka playing on an enormous ancient phonograph.

Sidney yanked Sam back up to the roof but Sam became so excited in the process, he ejaculated his semen seed. By the time the seed popped out of the bottom of his dungarees, rolled off the roof and landed in the yard, it was the size of a cantaloupe.

From all corners of the yard kids skipped over and began frolicking with the seed. Its round contour grew to the size of a watermelon in their hands.

Sam stared down at the kids. He began a high-step gleeful dance, part mazurka, part gavotte, part rumba, part hornpipe right there on the roof, bottom to top, edge to edge, twirling like some enchanted wood nymph, his pot belly jiggling in pure ecstasy.

Trevor

This was a much more interesting book than I thought it might be. The nature of dreams is something that is hard not to find fascinating. The thing is that we spend quite a bit of time dreaming â€“ not the third of our lives we spend sleeping, but enough time to make us wonder why we dream at all. It seems incomprehensible that our dreams would be completely meaningless. But then, they can be so bizarre it is hard to know just what they might mean.

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Freud starts with a quick run through how dreams have been interpreted in the past â€“ from Aristotle on. Aristotle is a good place to start, as he says we dream about things that have been left unresolved from the day â€“ and this is a core idea that Freud also includes in his theory of dreams.

Essentially, Freud sees dreams as playing a key role in helping us to process stuff that happened during the day. But dreams are a truth that likes to hide. Their meaning covers itself in remarkable allusions and images that are often amusingly apt, but sometimes it is as if we are determined to hide the true meaning of our dreams even from ourselves.

Freud makes it clear that this will not be a book of off-the-shelf interpretations â€“ â€“oh, you dreamt of a lion last night, that means you should have been born Leo and spent time chasing gazelleâ€™™. To Freud it is impossible to understand and interpret dreams from a list of standard symbols. This doesnâ€™™t mean that if you are going to interpret dreams you donâ€™™t have to know a lot about symbols and their common meanings â€“ but this knowledge is never enough. Symbols develop their own meanings within the text that is the dream. Just as in Blakeâ€™™s The Sick Rose the rose can be read to mean anything from nature, to the Christian Church, to female genitalia, so in dreams the interpretation is meaningful within the context of the dream and to the life of the dreamer. And the dream is relevant to the immediate life of the dreamer. It is generally a response to what happened that day â€“ even if the imagery used may well refer back to the childhood of the dreamer so that the deeper significance is a life's work.

The other remarkable conclusion Freud draws is that dreams are wish fulfilments. Now, this seems anything but obvious. Sure, when we have dreams we are having sex with super-models it is pretty obvious that Freud is onto something. But these arenâ€™™t the only dreams he sees as being wish fulfilments. Even dreams where loved ones die are seen by Freud as being fundamentally the realisations of wishes â€“ but again, the dream isnâ€™™t always as easy to interpret as it might initially seem and the wish may not be as easy to understand as might be immediately apparent from what happens in the dream. The fact we wake screaming and shaking from a dream may not mean there is no wish involved in the thing that terrifies us â€“ although, I would have to say I

don't think he dealt with nightmares nearly as well as he ought to have.

It is here that Freud discusses the Oedipal Complex – how our first sexual attraction is toward the parent of the opposite sex to ourselves and therefore we desire to remove one parent from the scene so as to take their place. While we are children the full implications of this desire are obscure to us – but as we grow older the taboo associated with this desire helps suppress our recognition of these desires, or repress them, rather – but only from the conscious mind. The subconscious mind still remembers what we might prefer to forget and so uses these images, as the first images of our awakening desires, as potent images in our dreams. The meaning of the image may not be anything like that we want to kill our father and have sex with our mother – it might actually refer to an awakening of sexual interest in someone else we have only recently met – but the dream uses this ~primal~ image as something to help it make sense of our current world and desires, even if the image then goes on to confuse the hell out of us.

Time for a story. I once worked with a woman called Frances Nolan. She was really lovely, one of the nicest people I've ever worked with, but I didn't really fancy her. I mean, she was pretty and incredibly nice, but she was quite a bit younger than me and I just wasn't really all that interested in her in that way. But every morning I would be walking to the train station and when I got to a certain part of Church Street she would suddenly jump into my head as large as life. I was starting to think that I must have been starting to fall for her – it was the strangest feeling, and quite confusing. Until one day I realised that there is a shoe shop in Church Street that is called Frances Nolan Shoes – and the sign is huge and I would walk under it every day. I really struggle to believe I didn't consciously notice this sign in all the time I had walked up that street and imagined I was falling for poor Frances.

This book is interesting as I had assumed it would be a much harder read than it turned out to be – I also thought it would be a much sillier book than it turned out too. It is extremely well written. I don't think I agree entirely with Freud, but he makes a very strong case. My main problems with his theory have to do with Sherlock Holmes. Because that's what a lot of this sounded like to me. Someone has a dream and Freud does the whole ~Elementary, my dear Watson~ thing. It even gets to the stage where he says that sometimes things mean the opposite of what they seem to mean in the dream. When that is the case then any interpretation is basically about imposing ones preconceptions on the meaning of the symbols in the dream.

Ahmad Sharabiani

Die Traumdeutung = The Interpretation of Dreams, Sigmund Freud

