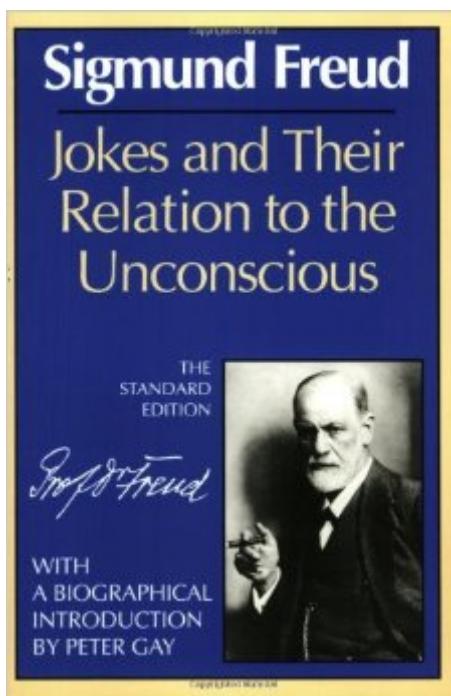


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Jokes And Their Relation To The Unconscious (The Standard Edition) (Complete Psychological Works Of Sigmund Freud)



Synopsis

Freud argues that the "joke-work" is intimately related to the "dream-work" which he had analyzed in detail in his Interpretation of Dreams, and that jokes (like all forms of humor) attest to the fundamental orderliness of the human mind. While in this book Freud tells some good stories with his customary verve and economy, its point is wholly serious.

Book Information

Series: Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1 edition (September 17, 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393001458

ISBN-13: 978-0393001457

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.9 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #377,155 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Theories of Humor #179 inÂ Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Movements > Behaviorism #253 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Behavioral Sciences > Behavioral Psychology

Customer Reviews

This book is about several traditional types of meaning-based jokes. It was Freud's earliest attempt to publish a book on his theory of the unconscious, and one Freudian scholar (Tomas Geyskens) even believes, unrealistically, that this text is the best example of Freud's theory of sublimation in art. Every basic class of jokes is included here, although not properly identified according to their actual type. Freud even includes a sophisticated kind in which ambiguous language is used as a means of indirect communication. But these indirection jokes, like all others, are analyzed by theorists today as "incongruity resolution." According to this erroneous view humor lies in our mere satisfaction in discovering just what is going on in a joke, in particular as it "resolves," partially or fully. That theory holds that what is mainly funny is the process itself of getting the joke. This is a false theory that certainly must be abandoned, especially considering the better alternative that I have devised. There are in fact two classes of linguistic jokes, which the authoritative theorists lump together as one. One is merely a glorified pun or witticism, while that which thinly veils a foible in

double meaning, should be known as an indirection, or "irony" joke. Freud illustrates the joke of indirection in the example about the doctor, in that passage where he explains "double meaning proper." That notion describes well the kind of ambiguity that is used both in indirect communication and in a glorified witticism. But he also discloses, unknowingly, a third class, citing the one about a foolish cafÃ© customer who hasn't paid his bill and tries to return a piece of cake to pay for his drink because he "hadn't eaten" the cake.

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