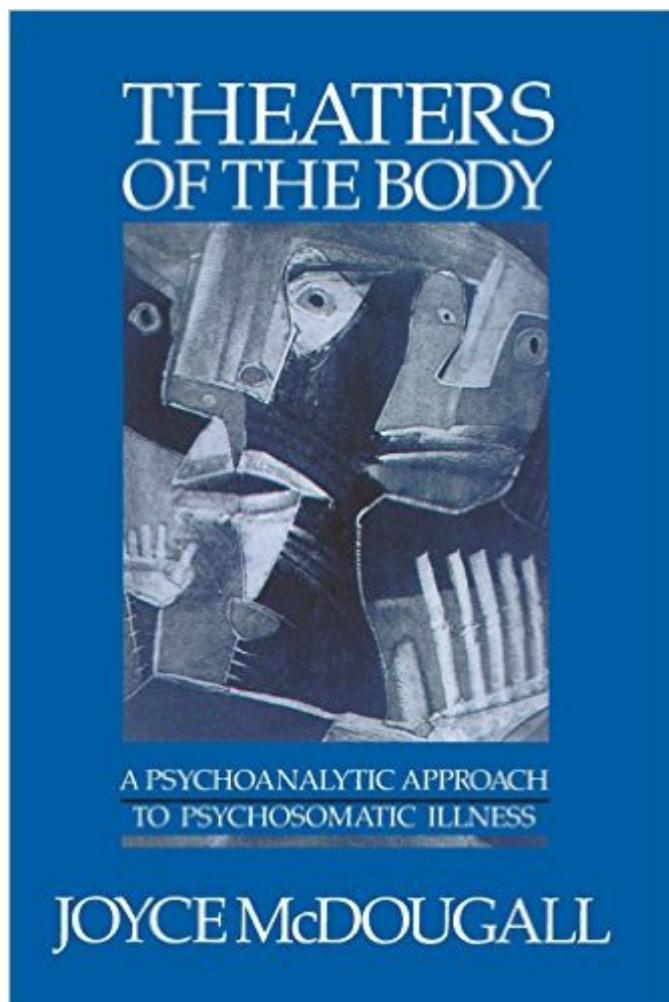


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Theaters Of The Body: A Psychoanalytic Approach To Psychosomatic Illness



Synopsis

Theaters of the Body is a landmark contribution to the study of the psychosoma by one of the world's most important psychoanalytic thinkers and clinicians. In this book, Joyce McDougall presents a bold and exciting recasting of the psychoanalytic approach to the fascinating question of the relationship between the mind and the body.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Joyce McDougall's personal perspective on mind-body interrelatedness and psychoanalysis make her one of the most prolific authors in the field. You can trace the deep influence of Winnicott's theories and various French authors (such as J. Laplanche, A. Green and J. Lacan) on her work, moving from clinical observations to metapsychological explorations. Her main proposal, desafection as an alternative mechanism to repression or forclusion in the patient's dynamics and psychosomatic economy, is a major (and quite controversial) contribution to previous approaches on somatization. Her style is fluid (unlike "The Many Faces of Eros", which centers on technical issues), including plenty of clinical vignettes and personal experiences. A "must have" for anyone interested in somatization and psychosomatic phenomenon, specially for those in therapeutic field.

McDougall is one of my favorite authors, she was so talented ! Her views on the psychosomatic are a wonderful contribution to the understanding of that disorder! She also has a great sensibility when she talks about the relation mother-child, how that is at the bottom of this disorder, in some

paragraphs she describes this special relationship as poetic without forgetting she is a psychoanalyst!

Wonderful account of how the body takes over when the psyche is overwhelmed. Book for analysts and therapists. Technical terms of analysis may put off other readers.

I found McDougall's book challenging, enlightening and encouraging in developing a "joined-up" approach to the mind-body split. I particularly appreciated the case histories she described with such humanity and sympathy for the sufferer. As a primary care counsellor, I meet somapsychotic symptomatology on a daily basis. This book has given me courage to make imaginative leaps of interpretation rooted in the individuality of each person's unique self expression. In a recent case history discussion for a Master's programme, I found McDougall's concepts invaluable in helping to formulate and express the complexities this area of work presents.

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