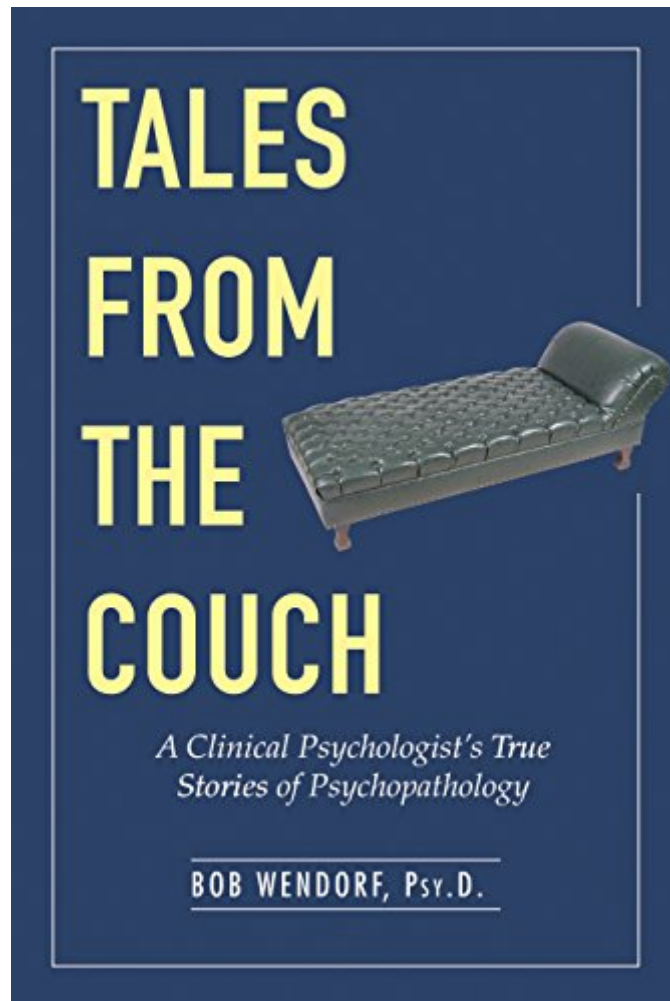


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Tales From The Couch: A Clinical Psychologist's True Stories Of Psychopathology



Synopsis

Tales from the Couch is collection of actual case studies and a primer on psychopathology, as well as a captivating reflection on the human condition. Drawn from Dr. Bob Wendorf's thirty-six-year career years as a clinical psychologist, the book examines the lives of some of his most troubled patients, in a project that aims to both educate and fascinate the reader. Clinical syndromes are described and dramatized by real-life case examples (altered only as necessary to protect patient confidentiality). Each of the sixteen chapters focuses on a particular psychiatric diagnosis, including Multiple Personality Disorder, Asperger's, and ADD. The clinical picture and symptoms are described and explained, then brought to life by case examples taken from the author's practice. Dr. Wendorf presents the cases as a series of narratives; some dramatic, some humorous, most quite poignant. Along the way, the author offers his own reactions to the people and events described here and application to the general human condition as well. Tales from the Couch offers compelling stories of extraordinary people, clinical conditions, and events; both in and out of the therapy hour; while providing insights into the nature of human beings, mental illness, and the psychotherapeutic enterprise.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

DISCLAIMER Right up front, I want to state that I have never met the author and am in no way related to him. I bought this book and read it, so what I this review is about as independent as could be possible. This is not a knock against the other reviewers. It is simply a statement of fact.

Quick Overview I expected a book of bizarre, wild, outlandish tales. I guess I'm just too conditioned by television and Hollywood. Instead, I got a serious discussion of the less flamboyant sessions the author held with some of his more memorable patients. Instead of jokes, or hair-raising bizarre split personality, I got something more akin to regular, everyday life. And that is precisely why this is such a useful, dare I say, informative read. To learn what I found while poring through this light discussion, read on.

Length: Print, 224 pages; Audible, 7 hours, 25 minutes.

Q - Target Audience/Genre and is it marketed as Nonfiction or Fiction: A " This is nonfiction that will be of most interest to those who are curious as to the real life of a psychotherapist and/or who may be wondering about the usefulness of such works. Have you ever debated what can be done to save people from the trials and tribulations of a rough, abusive childhood? This book is a good place to start looking for answers.

Q - How was this book obtained? A " Bought on .

Q - Are there a lot of typos/misspellings, grammatical errors or other editing failures? A " No.

Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read? A " This is more of a leisure read --- read a chapter then ponder the case discussed.

Q - What sort of language does this writer use to amplify the points made? A " Plain English.

This book is really wonderful. The writing style is funny and light but also full of information and facts. The Doctor 9 (Dr. Wendorf, not the Doctore as in Doctor Who. That's an entirely different genre) somehow manages give really useful information about various common types of mental illness, weirdness (his words) craziness (also his word) types of suicide etc without making this book totally depressing or dry. He is self depreciating at times, making himself sympathetic and easy for the reader to relate to. This is somehow better than any text book I have ever read on the subject and also entertaining. This man has talent.

The characters - his patients- are all the people that you and I know. They are the weird, the quirky, the slightly different, the totally normal on the surface. They are you, me, our parents, siblings, friends and co workers. We are ALL different and we all have our quirks. The author talks about what is just a quirk or a personality trait and what is an actual condition that needs to be treated. He discusses the variations of 'normal' and how normal depends entirely on the time frame and society the in question is living in. He points out how science is fallible, doctors aren't perfect, sometimes solutions are elusive. Sometimes they are

immediate and unexpected. Sometimes they are pure blind luck. Sometimes they are impossible. Often times they are a compromise- no one is perfect because there IS no perfect. Often the 'cure' or solution is finding what works for that person without adversely affecting society at large even if you and I and the general standards of our time necessarily look at the lifestyle this person that has been 'cured' chooses to live as productive.

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