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The Man With The Beautiful Voice: And More Stories From The Other Side Of The Couch



Synopsis

In her long career as a psychotherapist, acclaimed author Lillian Rubin occasionally encountered patients who demanded a very special, even unorthodox, therapeutic approach. For the first time, Dr. Rubin tells the stories of her most fascinating, most challenging cases from the other side of the couch, focusing not just on the patient, but on her own inner process as she confronts the issues each case raises.

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Customer Reviews

For her latest title, Rubin, a psychotherapist, takes a page from Oliver Sacks with this absorbing chronicle of seven of her most challenging cases. These "stories from the other side of the couch" attempt to explain to the lay reader what therapists mean when they refer to the "reciprocal dance" of treatment, in which patients "expect more than they should and we promise more than we can deliver." The patient of the title is a handicapped former Thalidomide baby whose deep rage over his malformed legs borders on the sociopathic. Rubin brings the reader into her office and her head as, year after year, she methodically coaxes the embittered man toward self-acceptance. Such success is elusive, however, and for every therapeutic triumph there are also patients who can't endure the self-scrutiny and simply give up. Rubin claims to be forever haunted by the suicide of one young graduate student whose treatment for profound depression seemed to be progressing with promise. Watching others lay themselves completely bare day after day takes an emotional toll on the therapist as well, and Rubin is completely honest about her own doubts and feelings of

inadequacy as she gently attempts to build a trusting relationship with her patients. Hers is a humanistic, often unorthodox, approach, and she takes great pains to treat the fragile people who seek her out as equals. Therapists are generally trained to keep a detached, strictly clinical manner in the office; any physical contact is frowned upon. But it's a rule Rubin defiantly flouts: she's quick with a hug or a squeeze of the hand if she thinks the situation calls for it. In her writing, Rubin employs an efficient and deliberate-though not dry-narrative style peppered with keen insight and good humor. Each of these seven case studies stands alone as a unique, self-contained story that will have the reader rooting for what Rubin calls the "aha" moment, the "beginning of knowing" that marks a breakthrough in psychotherapy. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

. 'Entertaining and revealing, *The Man With the Beautiful Voice* includes accounts of patients who taught Rubin something important about herself-among them her very first patient.' --Susan Salter Reynolds, *Los Angeles Times* 'This daring and engrossing book offers a unique gift to readers: a window into the mind and the heart of both sides of the therapeutic relationship-the patient's and the therapist's. Only a writer and thinker as agile as Lillian Rubin could offer such compelling stories that tell us so much about the process of pain and healing for both patient and therapist.' -Kim Chernin, author of *The Hungry Self* 'The seven case histories are riveting, Rubin's skills as a therapeutic sleuth are masterful, but the power of this remarkable book lies in the author's willingness to expose her radical self-doubt and her loving, caring heart.' --Letty Cottin Pogrebin, author of *Three Daughters, Getting Over Getting Older, and Deborah, Golda, and Me* "Because she is a fine writer able to convey her own strong feelings and concern for her patients, Lillian Rubin has succeeded in making each of these clinical cases into a fascinating, well-paced, climactic story. A wonderful read." --Alix Kates Shulman, author of *Memoirs of an Ex-Prom Queen* "It's not a therapist's technique or theoretical approach that really heals the patient, Rubin tells us. It's that more mysterious, step-by-step journey through the emphatic chambers of the human heart. The author of some of our very best works on social class, gender and family, Rubin takes us with her on her own journeys from both sides of the couch." --Arlie Hochschild, author of *The Commercialization of Intimate Life and The Time Bind*

Beautifully written. Unlike other books that detail the relationship between a therapist and client, Rubin's book lets us into her mind and thought processes when interacting with patients. It also shows how she is conflicted by her teachings and her actual experience with patients. It is a great

learning tool for therapists-in-training, but also a great read for any one interested in psychology and the therapeutic relationship.

Great condition. Just what I needed for class.

I enjoyed the overall content but was disappointed in her writing style. The sentences ran into paragraphs much of the time and was heavy with subject variances. This disallowed reading enjoyment.

It's a very honest account of her professional experience and extremely useful for those who are starting as a therapist.

Had to buy this book for class, fast and very interesting read.

This was a great read. Will enlighten you as to the extremes others have experienced psychically.

This was an excellent read for those interested in becoming a mental health counselor, and even those who aren't.

This book gives you an inside view of the therapist-patient relationship from the therapist point of view. It's enlightening to read how the relationship develops and how that impacts the patient's life. You can get a little bit of a feel for how therapy works and what happens. The book does a nice job of juxtaposing the 'rules' of how things are to be done and 'intuition' about how things should be done and the struggle between the two. My favorite chapter was the final one where the author shared her personal experience in therapy and what that relationship meant to her and did for her. A good read for a therapist or a client in therapy.

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Hockey Stars: Comparing Pro Hockey's Greatest Players (Side-by-Side Sports)
My Side of the Mountain Trilogy (My Side of the Mountain / On the Far Side of the Mountain / Frightful's Mountain)
Bedtime Stories for Kids: Short

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