



A Case of Hysteria: (Dora) (Oxford World's Classics)

By Sigmund Freud, Anthea Bell, Ritchie Robertson



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"I very soon had an opportunity to interpret Dora's nervous coughing as the outcome of a fantasized sexual situation."

A new translation of one of Freud's most important and intriguing texts, *A Case of Hysteria*-- popularly known as the "Dora Case"--affords rare insight into how Freud dealt with patients and interpreted what they told him. As the 18-year-old "Dora" underwent psychoanalysis, Freud uncovered a remarkably unhappy and conflict-ridden family, with several competing versions of their story, and his account of "Dora's" emotional travails is as gripping as a modern novel. The narrative became a crucial text in the evolution of his theories, combining his studies on hysteria and his new theory of dream-interpretation with early insights into the development of sexuality.

This landmark work is freshly translated by Britain's leading translator of German literature, Anthea Bell, while leading authority Ritchie Robertson provides a fascinating introduction which sets the work in its biographical, historical, and intellectual context. Robertson sheds light in particular on the unwitting preconceptions and prejudices with which Freud approached his patient, highlighting both his own blindness and the broader attitudes of turn-of-the-century Viennese society. The book also features explanatory notes that highlight the literary and critical allusions that Freud worked into his text, plus an up-to-date bibliography that helps the reader to explore the topic further.

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Editorial Review

Review

Dora remains shocking, infuriating, enthralling, and inspiring. It is an indispensable text for anyone wanting to get to grips with psychiatry. The Lancet, Niall Boyce

About the Author

Anthea Bell is a freelance translator from French and German, and the winner of many translation awards. She has translated the entire *Asterix* series, with Derek Hockridge, and many adult novels, including W. G. Sebald's *Austerlitz* and a large selection of novellas and stories by Stefan Zweig. She has translated Kafka's *The Castle* for Oxford World's Classics.

Ritchie Robertson is the author and editor of many works of German and Austrian literature. For Oxford World's Classics he has written the introduction and notes to Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams* (tr. Joyce Crick) and to Kafka's *The Trial* (tr. Mike Mitchell), *The Metamorphosis and Other Stories* (tr. Joyce Crick), *The Castle* (tr. Anthea Bell), and *A Hunger Artist and Other Stories* (tr. Joyce Crick). He has translated Kafka's *The Man who Disappeared* and E. T. A. Hoffmann's *The Golden Pot*. He is the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Thomas Mann* and the author of *Mock-Epic Poetry from Pope to Heine* (OUP, 2009).

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