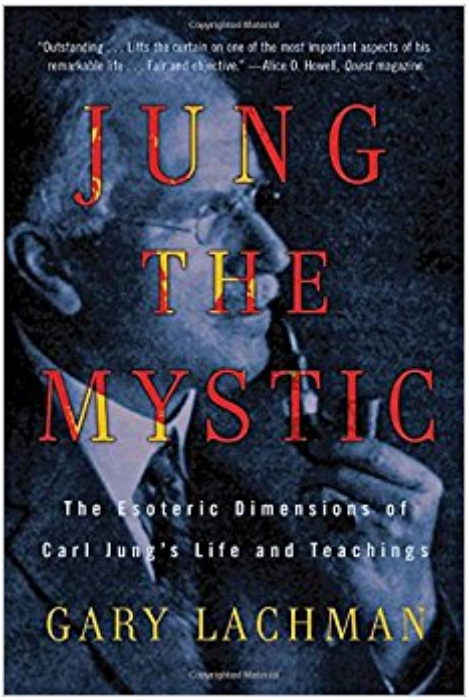
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Jung The Mystic: The Esoteric Dimensions Of Carl Jung's Life And Teachings



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Synopsis

Now in paperback, this bold new biography fills a gap in our understanding of the pioneering psychologist by focusing on the occult and mystical aspects of JungÃ¢â ¬â„¢s thought and career.Ã¢â ¬Å“Outstanding . . . lifts the curtain on one of the most important aspects of his remarkable life . . . fair and objective.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Alice O. Howell, Quest magazineÃ¢â ¬Å“How the Swiss psychologist lived a life rich in the paranormal.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Los Angeles TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“A serious but comprehensible new biography of Jung and his interest in the esoteric.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •New Age RetailerÃ¢â ¬Å“Fascinating . . . Fully engaging from beginning to end.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Dell HoroscopeAlthough he is often called the Ã¢â ¬Å“founding father of the New Age,Ã¢â ¬Â• Carl Jung, the legendary Swiss psychiatrist best known for his groundbreaking concepts such as the collective unconscious, archetype theory, and synchronicity, often took pains to avoid any explicit association with mysticism or the occult. Yet Jung lived a life rich in paranormal experiencesÃ¢â ¬â •arguing for the existence of poltergeists in a debate with Sigmund Freud, participating in sÃƒÂ©ances, incorporating astrology into his therapeutic work, reporting a near-death experience, and analyzing the work of pioneering ESP researcher J. B. Rhine. It is these critical experiencesÃ¢â ¬â •often fleetingly touched on in other biographies or critical studies, and frequently used to make a case against Jung and his philosophiesÃ¢â ¬â •that form the core of this significant new biography.

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Customer Reviews

GARY LACHMAN is one of todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most widely read and respected writers on esoteric and occult themes. His writing has been published in several national journals on philosophy, esotericism, and modern culture, and his booksÃ¢â ¬â •including Madame Blavatsky; Rudolf Steiner; Swedenborg; and A Secret History of ConsciousnessÃ¢â ¬â •have been published to acclaim in both America and Europe. In his musical career, Lachman has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a founding member of the pioneering rock band Blondie. Lachman was born in New Jersey, and he currently lives in London.

If you are interested in Carl Jung's esoteric works, as I am, you will have had to dig around in his books. A little mention of this here, that there. Jung himself was unsure he wanted this information disseminated, much less compiled -- he lived in a much more staid and judgmental time than we do (partly thanks to him!). Many of the ideas we take for granted, a collective unconscious, e.g., originated with him and in his mystical or shamanic experiences. Hypnagogia, active imagination, visionary experience. The author has done a very good job of bringing much of Jung's experience together for the reader, who may also use this book as a guide to further reading. Very nice to have -- I have already read a borrowed copy and am now buying one to keep.

Lachman breaks down a very complex man. This is excellent. Jung was an "occultist". Lachman is good at not being unrealistic...yet he digs out fascinating fact and incites. If you want to understand a complex topic fast Mr. Lachman is good at that. He was OTO If you have read his stuff you know this. Also you will find Jung was one of the strangest coolest thinkers ever. I prefer him much more then SF indeed. Wierd methods can cure.

Lachman's bio on Jung is well-written, accurate and moves along easily. As stated by the other reviewers, he skips over some connections and emphasizes others, but this is inevitable in a short book. While it is not an "advanced" biography by any means, it captures a useful perspective on the essence of Jung from the viewpoint of Lachman's interests, and does so in a very entertaining way. It contains lot of pleasant food for thought.

Gary Lachsman is one of the most readable scholars I have come across. His knowledge of Jung's world is deep (see Lachman's other titles). His writing style is inviting. If there is one book that covers Jung's mysticism (and most touch it vaguely if at all), this is the one. It makes sense of Jung's background and thinking, with all of Lachman's positions validated by references.

Gary Lachman’s biography of Carl Jung is as intelligent as its subject. Anyone trying to wade through the writings of Jung himself will have a hard time understanding the man in any way that might be useful. I’ve learned of Jung through Joseph Campbell in his works on the power of mythology in our lives, and now with Lachman’s new biography, I can finally understand the genius of Jung himself.Lachman writes as someone who truly understands his subject in a deep and meaningful way. Even though Lachman’s writings read like a scholarly paper, it was still an enjoyable and easily understood book. Filled with quotations and researched to within an inch of its life, Jung the Mystic is a great introduction to the life of a man who opened so many doors into the unconscious of humankind.Without Jung we wouldn’t have the common terms such as synchronicities and collective unconscious. Joseph Campbell might not have been able to give us the hero’s mythic journey, and maybe we wouldn’t know that our mass despondencies come from living a modern life that lacks any real meaning, something only the inner world of our subconscious can give us.Exerts from the book:"Pierre Janet’s central concept was what he called the "reality function." Like Bleuler, he believed that mental illness was a result of a "loosening" of consciousness, a slackness in our grasp of reality, as if the mind was a hand too feeble to hold anything properly. We even tell someone who seems on the verge of hysteria to "get a grip." Mental health, Janet believed, was determined by our ability to focus, to concentrate our attention (as we often say "pull yourself together" to someone who is danger of losing it"). Janet called this act of concentration "psychological tension," and he believed it was something people could develop intentionally. . . patients lost contact with reality because their consciousness had become dangerously slack, and Blueler recognized this by giving them various "tasks" to perform.Janet had also developed the idea that when someone’s psychological tension becomes extremely slack--what he called the lowering of the mental level," through either sleep, hypnosis, or illness--the personality separates into autonomous fragments that seem to have a `mind’ of their own, which is very close to what Jung was discovering about complexes." Page 62My take on what Jung is trying to say:Television causes us to separate from reality in two ways, first it lowers our self-esteem by showing us only the best and the beautiful, while commercials reinforce our need for products because of our physical deficiencies. Next, television puts us into a trance state which weakens our psychological tension, letting their consciousness go slack which can cause a break reality. Just turning on the news now shows us how many people are suffering from complexes and breaks with reality. This cause depression where the patient is then given anti-psychotic medication furthering their break from reality.I get the feeling that I’m going to be a whole lot smarter with ever book I read

by Gary LachmanMany of Jung’s patients were uneducated peasants who knew little of history yet there dreams said otherwise. The mind inherits from past generations.

Lachman, as usual, brings the title character alive and paints an in-depth, honest account of one of the great figures in thought and psychology in this century.

It’s a good addition to my library. This slant on Jung provides food for thought.

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