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978-1-107-11639-9 - What Freud Really Meant: A Chronological Reconstruction of his  
Theory of the Mind

Susan Sugarman

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## What Freud Really Meant

Through an exacting yet accessible reconstruction of eleven of Freud's essential theoretical writings, Susan Sugarman demonstrates that the traditionally received Freud is the diametric opposite of the one evident in the pages of his own works. Whereas Freud's theory of the mind is typically conceived as a catalogue of uninflected concepts and crude reductionism – for instance that we are nothing but our infantile origins or sexual and aggressive instincts – it emerges here as an organic whole built from first principles and developing in sophistication over time. Sugarman's exciting interpretation, tracking Freud's texts in the order in which he wrote them, grounds his claims in the reasoning that led to them and reveals their real intent. This fresh reading will appeal to specialists and students across a variety of disciplines.

SUSAN SUGARMAN, Professor of Psychology at Princeton University, came to the study of Freud as a developmental psychologist who found in Freud's works a striking theory of how the mind develops and a singularly incisive method of argument. She transitioned from studying children in their own right to trying to understand the adult mind by looking for the child within it. A former Fulbright scholar and Guggenheim fellow, she is the author of four other books, including *Piaget's Construction of the Child's Reality* and *Freud on the Psychology of Ordinary Mental Life*.

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*Princeton University*



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*For Stephen and Abby*

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