



Thou Shalt Not Be Aware: Society's Betrayal of the Child

By Alice Miller

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Originally published in 1984, *Thou Shalt Not Be Aware* explodes Freud's notions of "infantile sexuality" and helps to bring to the world's attention the brutal reality of child abuse, changing forever our thoughts of "traditional" methods of child-rearing. Dr. Miller exposes the harsh truths behind children's "fantasies" by examining case histories, works of literature, dreams, and the lives of such people as Franz Kafka, Virginia Woolf, Gustave Flaubert, and Samuel Beckett. Now with a new preface by Lloyd de Mause and a new introduction by the author, *Thou Shalt Not Be Aware* continues to bring an essential understanding to the confrontation and treatment of the devastating effects of child abuse.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Miller parts company with Freud on the origins of children's fantasies in this progressive study of repressed memory. Forget the Oedipus complex. Miller reasons that when children suffer abuse, their feelings of pain and rage have nowhere to go in a society that esteems parental power over them as a natural right. Children have no choice but to internalize the anguish, creating a wellspring of fantasy material. This book offers a fresh take on how the unconscious retains memories of childhood and, without appropriate intervention, generates emotional ills and destructive behavior.

Review

"A provocative critique of traditional therapy's view of childhood . . . This is explosive stuff. I can't imagine anyone coming away from this book without several newfound discoveries about herself and her relation to her parents." ?Nancy Evans, *Glamour*

"*Thou Shalt Not Be Aware* is that rarest of gems, a highly creative and exciting work which throws a multifaceted light upon the development of human nature in the Western World." ?Ashley Montagu

"Alice Miller is not out to 'hang the bastards,' but rather to help create a world of self-conscious and self-loving individuals who don't need, want or know how to abuse others." ?Sheila Koren, *San Francisco Chronicle*

"It is timely. It is powerful. It is painful . . . absorbing, enlightening and provoking." ?Louise Lionne, *Charlotte Observer*

Language Notes

Text: English, German (translation)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alan Williams:

This book untitled *Thou Shalt Not Be Aware: Society's Betrayal of the Child* to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book shop or you can order it by using online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, as you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this e-book from your list.

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Jesse Eriksen:

Within this era which is the greater person or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple way to have that. What you are related is just spending your time very little but quite enough to have a look at some books. Among the books in the top collection in your reading list is definitely Thou Shalt Not Be Aware: Society's Betrayal of the Child. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking upwards and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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