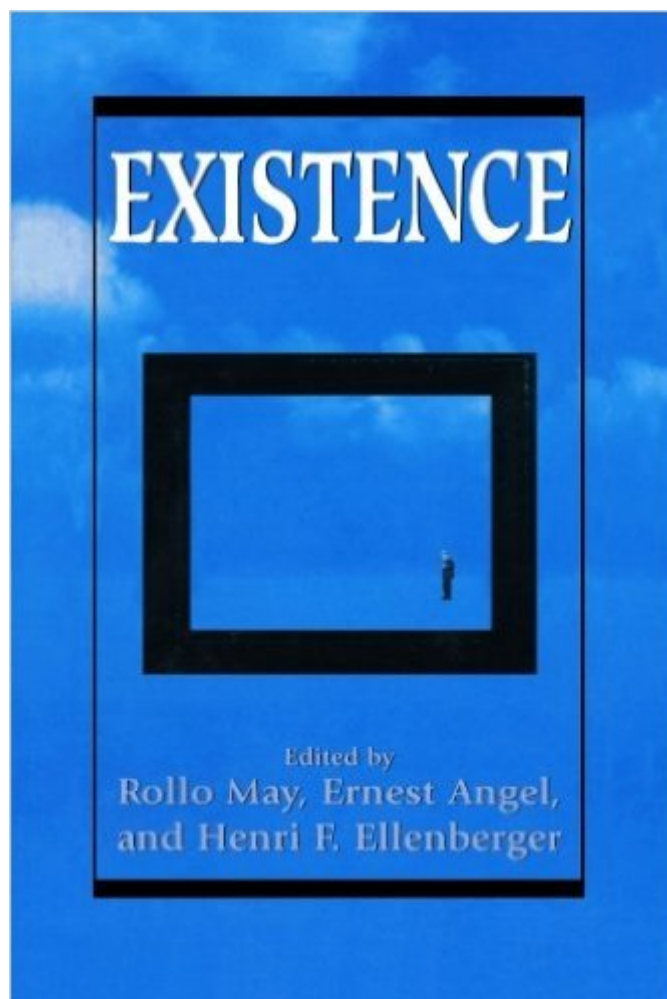


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Existence (Master Work)



Synopsis

Since its publication, *Existence* has been regarded as the most important, complete, and lucid account of the existentialist approach to psychology. From the works of the leading spokesmen of the existential analytic movement, the editors have selected classic case histories and other writings to define the approach that seeks to understand mental illness, in the words of Rollo May, ". . .not as deviations from the conceptual yardstick of this or that psychiatrist. . .but as deviations in the structure of the particular patient's existence, the disruptions of his condition humane."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Here is a book that puts all of the pieces of Existentialism, Existential Psychology and Existential Psychotherapy into place. It is a series of in-depth seminal articles with an introduction "to die for," all written by the giants of the era in which modern psychology was developed. In order to fit within the guidelines for length, this review focuses primarily on the introduction, which is itself a kind of broad summary of the contents of the book. However, readers are not to be discouraged from delving into the actual test cases upon which the theories and practices are built. In a real sense, they are the foundation of a new discipline. The reader should be warned that this is a densely packed and densely written book and an amateur such as myself, could not possibly do justice to reviewing this book, but here goes anyway. The problem facing psychotherapy during the formative years of psychology was this: Although the techniques of psychotherapy were affecting cures; the therapists

did not quite understand why their techniques and theories worked? As a result, the gaps between their theories and the reality of man had begun to raise serious questions - the most important of them being: Were these theories seeing man in the totality of his world of existence? Or were the patient's "unconscious problems" just becoming the "conscious projection" of the analyst's theories and techniques?

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