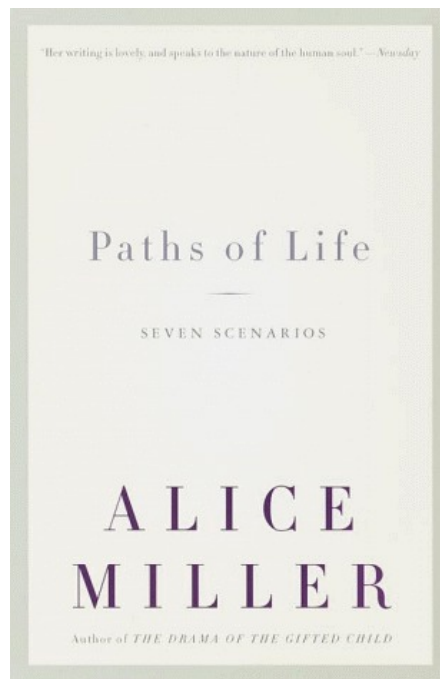




Paths of Life: Seven Scenarios

Alice Miller , Andrew Edwin Jenkins (Translator)

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How do early experiences of love or suffering affect our adult relationships? What effect is child abuse likely to have on the victim's later life? How does hatred evolve and take root? How do people develop into cult leaders or political tyrants? Through the seven hypothetical scenarios and two essays that make up Paths of Life, Miller examines these questions and many others. Her narratives demonstrate that with knowledge and understanding of our past we have the power to change our future, freeing ourselves from the curse of repeating our parents' mistakes. In this, her eighth book, Alice Miller has given us yet another wise and profound study of the inestimable importance of childhood.

"Alice Miller wrote the book on narcissistic parents and the havoc they wreak on children. Twenty years later, she's still on the case with a new book and even more radical ideas."--*Mirabella*

Paths of Life: Seven Scenarios Details

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Catherine says

This book is a good accompaniment to Michael Brown's "The Presence Process" as Miller's focus for years and years has been on child-rearing patterns of neglect and abuse, from the most subtle to the most heinous forms, that trigger emotional armoring that children carry into adulthood.

Tomas Ramanauskas says

This one is not worth your time - skip it, Miller might be a superstar psychologist, but a meager, limited storyteller. Only the extra (not sure it is in every edition) section, called "Thoughts", analyzing how dictators are grown, saves this from being a complete waste.

Grazia Palmisano says

Di Alice Miller, parecchi anni fa, me ne avevano parlato, ma non avevo mai letto nulla di suo. Di recente, per una serie di rivoluzioni satellitari della mia esistenza, ho sentito che era il momento di provare a sentire cosa avesse da dire. Ho già letto, quest'anno e in pochi mesi, tutti gli altri suoi libri tradotti in italiano, mi mancava solo più questo. L'argomento è sempre la violenza sui minori, rispetto alla quale si mantiene ancora, in misura ridotta rispetto al passato ma ancora si mantiene, la credenza del valore educativo delle punizioni fisiche e non. L'autrice in tutte le sue opere, inclusa questa, parla invece, e dimostra anche, di come in realtà gli abusi sui minori, fisici, sessuali, psichici, emotivi, la limitazione della loro libertà, la mancanza di rispetto nei loro confronti, non abbiano valenza educativa. La presunta educazione impartita serve piuttosto agli adulti per scaricare su bambini vulnerabili le proprie storie non gestite, le proprie esperienze non rielaborate. Chi ha subito violenza, giustifica la violenza perché l'ha subita da chi doveva proteggerlo, difenderlo, accudirlo. A sua volta educerà nello stesso modo, salvo elaborare con strumenti da adulto ciò che il bambino non poteva elaborare. All'inizio, quando ho letto il suo primo libro, ero perplessa. Avvertivo la profonda verità di quanto affermava, ma mi sembrava arduo, molto arduo, riuscire a far passare il concetto nelle menti dei più. Lei stessa riferisce infatti delle grandi difficoltà che incontra sempre a far passare le affermazioni, a mio avviso veritiere, contenute nei suoi testi e nel suo pensiero. Vale la pena comunque dare un'occhiata attenta alle sue parole, con mente aperta, non acritica, solo aperta. Le cinque stelle sono dovute non solo al fatto che la trattazione del tema, di per sé impegnativo, è svolta in maniera agevole, accessibile, rispettosa, ma anche al fatto che apprezzo moltissimo l'approccio di Alice Miller. Mi piace molto il suo continuo chiedersi "perché", senza fermarsi alle spiegazioni già pronte, ma cercando e indagando per giungere a una risposta che sia davvero soddisfacente e non di comodo. Il massimo dei voti a un'autrice che ha svolto un lavoro immenso e prezioso, e che, seppure morta, ha lasciato opere di grande valore che andrebbero non solo lette, ma soprattutto applicate. Ai bambini con cui abbiamo a che fare, e prima ancora ai bambini che siamo stati e che spesso siamo ancora.

deniz karpas says

Öyküleri, mektupları akıcı bir şekilde yazmış olan Alice Miller hikaye içinde psikoloji bilgisini ve düşüncelerini açık bir şekilde veriyor. Tüm kitaplarında temel savları olan "anne-babanız sevmek zorunda değilsiniz" ve "çocukluk hatta bebeklik çağındaki yaşadığımız travmalar biz de derin yaralar açar" devam ediyor. Bunlara ek olarak bu kitabında nefret ve Hitler arasındaki bağlantı aslında tüm toplumların birbirinden farklı olmadıklarını gösteriyor sadece yaşadığımız zamanlar farklı..

Kate Hickling says

Quite a powerful book. Liked the delineation between forgiveness and understanding. Some things are indeed unforgivable. Two essays at the back are interesting. Personally though I can't imagine having such a non-angry understanding, call me childish if you like.

Andrew Vachss says

To any soldier in the war against child abuse, Alice Miller is a legendary figure.

Evelin Tamm says

Alice Miller is telling seven stories. I read it in Swedish and could not really follow her. Everything was kind of slow and too typical. The first stories lacked the originality and authenticity and therefore I did not continue my reading. I must say I was disappointed. I still have one of her books on a shelf waiting for me. I am sure that one day, I'll pick it up.

Dziugi says

Not quite as good as "The Drama of the Gifted Child" or "The Body Never Lies". Maybe reading the two books I've mentioned above would have been enough of Alice Miller.

Merry says

Alice Miller's psychology work had a great effect on my own personal life, but this unfortunately was not a very good book. Read instead "The Drama of the Gifted Child".

andrew y says

Anecdotes that are fictional and back up the hypothesis of the author presented in a semi-scientific way seems like....wrong.

So this was good in some ways but ultimately very confusing to decide where the line was between self-serving confirmation bias and....anything else?

Rhythm says

An interesting presentation of seven life scenarios- ranging from birth traumas to ww2 experiences -with the help of fictitious characters. If you have already read most of Miller's earlier works, you'd be able to appreciate this book better as she's trying to elaborate certain points in her previous works in this (eg unrecognized trauma in early childhood can lead to parents inflicting the same pain on their offspring). Through the different life scenarios, the author here maps childhood traumas to subsequent adult behaviors. Even though it is written like fiction, these are more like real life scenarios in which the wronged child or guilty parent looks for closure by having those difficult conversations with their near ones (something they were denied as children). In the end two articles on the origins of cult culture and hatred are given. I totally loved reading this book.

Andrew Barnett says

This book just didn't click for me. I agree with her principles. Some of the stories changed my opinion on a variety of topics, including birth, and the reality of a baby's experience of the world, and having more respect for the emotional world of babies and taking their pain and discomfort more seriously.

There is also some interesting work in getting into the mind of someone who would be taken in by a guru figure, and the life history which can lead to an individual being more susceptible to that sort of influence.

But somehow, it just didn't work the same way as Alice Miller's other work, which has more of an essay format. The dialogue was stilted. The conversations didn't feel real, and the point of the scenarios was usually made abundantly clear and without enough nuance. This is the only book I have read of hers that I would not enthusiastically recommend.

Deb says

Despite the unimpressive writing style and techniques, this book contains some useful ideas, including that of violent and pervasive tendencies resulting from inhumane treatment in childhood and the need to face and understand one's own childhood traumas so their effects are not (unconsciously) perpetuated onto others.

Bengisu Çaygür says

Tam bir hayal k?r?kl???!

Anac?m niye hikayeletirme yoluna gittin ki? Bu harika 'öykü'leri okurken gözlerim kanayacak diye korktu?um do?rudur. Kamu Spotu ya da Samanyolu metinleriyimi?çesine ruhsuz, didaktik, samimiyetsiz, yapay mektuplar/diyaloglar. Edebiyattan bu kadar uzakken neden 'öyküleme' i?ine girdin ki? Bir 'hikaye

anlatıcısı' ile kolektif bir çalışmaya yapışsaymı keke.

"Öykülerim zaten bilgili okura pek yeni bir şey sunmayacak belki..."(arka kapak) demi ama minik bir başlangıç yapmak isteyenler illa gözlerini mi kanatsınlar? Onlara da yazık ayol(

*Çeviride mongoloid bir çocuk için "özürlü" kelimesinin tercih edilmesi olmasa kalbimi tırmalamadığıdır!!(Gloria: Yüreğin Bilgeliği s95-109)

Rita says

The two essays at the end is what made this book valuable to me (the stories, not so much). The one about dictators is definitely an eye opener and should be always used as an argument discussing with someone who still think that child punishment is a good solution.
