



Skeptical Engagements

Frederick C. Crews

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Eleven years ago, in *Out of My System*, the influential literary critic Frederick Crews served notice that his Freudian sympathies were being eroded. Now, in a closely reasoned and witty new book, he shows where that reappraisal took him and why he has come to regard himself as an opponent of all "self-validating" doctrines. The essays and occasional pieces that make up *Skeptical Engagements* are linked by a theme that Crews came to understand by trial and error: "the fear of facing the world, including its works of literature, without an intellectual narcotic ready at hand."

Having witnessed psychoanalysis from the believer's vantage as well as the skeptic's, Crews offers a uniquely trenchant perspective on Freudian claims. Psychoanalysis, he argues, is a classical pseudoscience--a doctrine insisting on its rigorous evidential basis while refusing in practice to be bound by the ethics of disconfirmation. Such a doctrine becomes overelaborate and even self-contradictory as it continually attempts to appease its doubters and add escape clauses to its failed predictions. Unlike other critics of modern psychoanalysis, Crews traces this tendency to Freud himself, whose stance toward evidence, he shows, ranged from the opportunistic to the flatly dishonest.

Skeptical Engagements is also a searing critique of pretension and folly in the literary academy, from deconstructive "freeplay" to post-structuralist Marxism. Such schools have explicitly set themselves against the empirical values which Crews takes to be a requisite in any thriving field of knowledge. And in a final section Crews applies his skepticism and his normative cultural concerns to such diverse figures as Joseph Conrad, Henry Miller, Norman Mailer, Philip Roth, Philip Rahv, and Leslie Fiedler. About the Author:

Frederick Crews, Professor of English at the University of California at Berkeley, is the author of nine books, including *The Pooh Perplex*, *E.M. Forster: The Perils of Humanism*, *The Sins of the Fathers: Hawthorne's Psychological Themes*, *The Random House Handbook*, and (with Sandra Schor) *The Borzoi Book for Writers*.

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Precisely why? Because this Skeptical Engagements is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will jolt you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such remarkable way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to delay having that book? If I were you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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