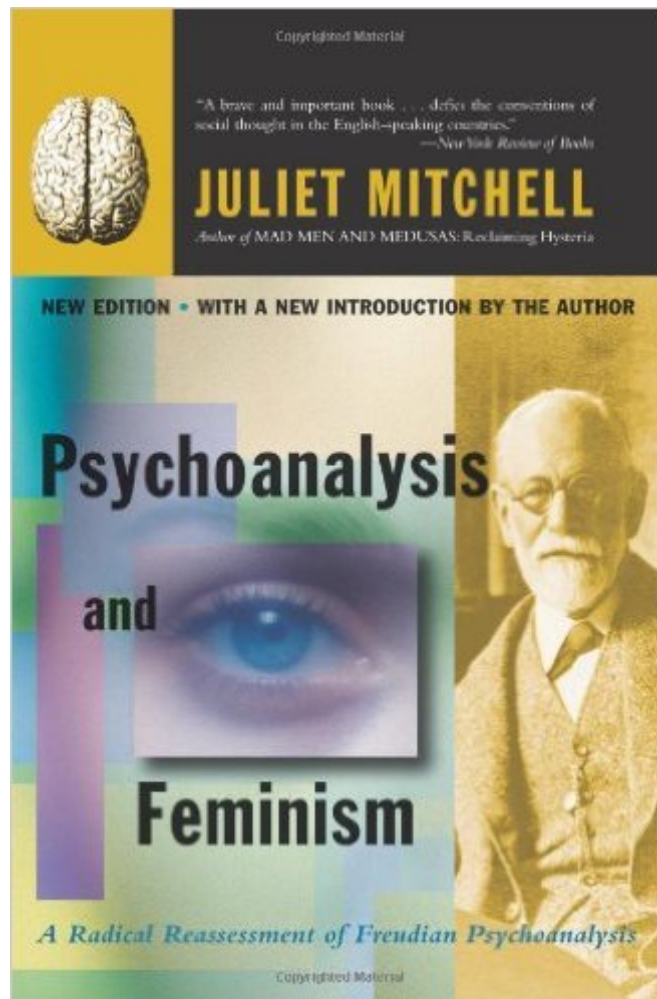


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# Psychoanalysis And Feminism: A Radical Reassessment Of Freudian Psychoanalysis



## Synopsis

In 1974, at the height of the women's movement, Juliet Mitchell shocked her fellow feminists by challenging the entrenched belief that Freud was the enemy. She argued that a rejection of psychoanalysis as bourgeois and patriarchal was fatal for feminism. However it may have been used, she pointed out, psychoanalysis is not a recommendation for a patriarchal society, but rather an analysis of one. "If we are interested in understanding and challenging the oppression of women," she says, "we cannot afford to neglect psychoanalysis." In an introduction written specially for this reissue, Mitchell reflects on the changing relationship between these two major influences on twentieth-century thought. Original and provocative, *Psychoanalysis and Feminism* remains an essential component of the feminist canon.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Juliet Mitchell (born 1940) is a British psychoanalyst and socialist feminist who is the Director of the Expanded Doctoral School in Psychoanalytic Studies at University College London; she has written/edited other books such as *Feminine Sexuality: Jacques Lacan and the "cole freudienne*, *Selected Melanie Klein*, *Woman's Estate*, etc. She wrote in the Introduction to this 1974 book, "This book has a double and criss-cross purpose. Feminist critics of Freud have not only conflated his theories with those of other, often diverging, analysts and with popularizations, but, with more serious consequences still, have extrapolated his ideas about femininity from their context within the large theories of psychoanalysis." (Pg. xiii-xiv) She states, "When Freud first formulated the

'castration complex' it explained all there was to know about the difference between the sexes---it defined the girl and made the boy abandon his incestuous wish for the mother. The girl felt totally inferior, because she lacked something, and the boy felt temporarily inferior to his more phallicly powerful father. The castration complex ended the boy's Oedipus complex and therewith his infancy. It seemed to lie behind all neuroses, to dominate all dreams and perversions, to account for the social inferiorization of women... and for the glorification of men." (Pg.

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