

Creatures of a Day: And Other Tales of Psychotherapy

Irvin D. Yalom



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"All of us are creatures of a day," wrote Marcus Aurelius, "rememberer and remembered alike." In his longawaited new collection of stories, renowned psychiatrist Irvin D. Yalom describes his patients' struggles—as well as his own—to come to terms with the two great challenges of existence: how to have a meaningful life, and how to reckon with its inevitable end. In these pages, we meet a nurse, angry and adrift in a morass of misery where she has lost a son to a world of drugs and crime, and yet who must comfort the more privileged through their own pain; a successful businessman who, in the wake of a suicide, despairs about the gaps and secrets that infect every relationship; a newly minted psychologist whose study of the human condition damages her treasured memories of a lost friend; and a man whose rejection of philosophy forces even Yalom himself into a crisis of confidence. Their names and stories will linger long after the book's last page is turned.

Like *Love's Executioner*, which established Yalom's preeminence as a storyteller illuminating the drama of existential therapy, *Creatures of a Day* is funny, earthy, and often shocking; it is a radically honest statement about the difficulties of human life, but also a celebration of some of the finest fruits—love, family, friendship—that life can bear. We are all creatures of a day. With Yalom as a guide, we can find in this book the means not just to make our own day bearable, but meaningful—and perhaps even joyful.

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