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# Freud for Beginners

By Richard Osborne

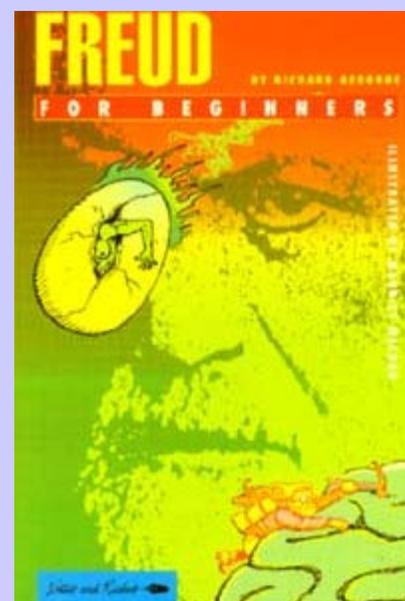
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## Our Review

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A cartoon guide to the legendary figure who we regard as one of the greatest and most underappreciated comedians of all time. Although largely forgotten by the entertainment industry, Sigmund Freud's contribution to modern farce is second only to G. Marx (or maybe third after G. Marx and K. Marx). Herr Doktor gave us dozens of hilarious concepts, including the Oedipus Complex, penis envy, infantile sexuality, libido, anal-retentive personalities, all those wonderful phallic symbols, a funny little devil called the Id, and that greatest of all comic devices, "The Couch." Comedians from M. Brooks to B. Newhart have used the prop to uproarious effect. When the comic says, "So... Vat is zee problem?" he is mimicking the good doctor (who never quite got the joke himself). While some of Freud's ideas about psychotherapy are now widely dismissed, it was still he who created the field. Freud pioneered the concept of the "unconscious" and was the first to define the "defense mechanisms" which seem to infiltrate nearly every field of human endeavor. This book describes Freud's work in layman's terms, illustrated with cartoons by Maurice Mechan. -- *Glenn Campbell*

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- [Freud Archives](#) - General information on Freud and his ideas. <12/4/96 #3>

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