The Life and Work of Sigmund Freud, Vol. 1: The Formative Years and the Great Discoveries, 1856-1900

Over a three-year period, Freud worked in various departments of the hospital. One historian concluded, based on Freud's correspondence with his adolescent friend Eduard Silberstein, that Freud read Nietzsche's The Birth of Tragedy and the first two of the Untimely Meditations when he was seventeen. In 1900, the year of Nietzsche's death, Freud bought his collected works; he told his friend, Fliess, that he hoped to find in Nietzsche's works. Freud read William Shakespeare in English throughout his life, and it has been suggested that his understanding of human psychology may have been partially derived from Shakespeare's plays. During this formative period of his work, Freud valued and came to rely on the Sigmund Freud's work had a lasting influence on psychology. Journey through his amazing life, his most astonishing theories, and his remarkable legacy. Sigmund Freud's work and theories helped shape our views of childhood, personality, memory, sexuality, and therapy. Other major thinkers have contributed work that grew out of Freud's legacy, while others developed new theories out of opposition to his ideas. In 2001, Time Magazine referred to Freud as one of the most important thinkers of the last century. A 2006 Newsweek article called him "history's most debunked doctor." While his theories have been the subject of considerable controversy and debate, his impact on psychology, therapy, and culture is undeniable. This is not intended to be a popular biography of Freud: Several have been written already, containing serious distortions and untruths. Its aims are simply to record the main facts of Freud's life while they are still accessible, and--a more ambitious one--to try to relate his personality and the experiences of his life to the development of his ideas. It is not a book that would have met with Freud's own approval. He felt he had already in many passages of his writings divulged enough of his personal life--which, indeed, he later regretted having done--and that he had a right to ke