Demystification has become an intellectual buzzword; finally, we have a book that accurately fits the definition. When most people think of "hypnosis" they imagine either a sinister, Mesmeresque figure declaring to his subject "you're getting sleepier and sleepier ... your eyelids are getting heavier and heavier, you vill go into trance," or an entertainer compelling a subject to "cluck like a chicken." In this comprehensive introduction to hypnosis based on the pioneering work of Milton H. Erickson, Bill O'Hanlon demystifies the concept of "trance" and "hypnosis." He goes to the heart of the subject by answering the question: "What is trance?" But be forewarned: This is no dry, formal discourse on trance induction techniques. Rather, readers are invited to share the experience of attending one of O'Hanlon's lively and popular two-day workshops on Ericksonian hypnosis. In an energetic and often humorous manner, O'Hanlon takes his audience through the basics of trance induction and explains the how, what, and why of hypnosis. Readers familiar with Erickson's work will be delighted at the author's Class of Problems/Class of Solutions approach, which deconstructs Ericksonian interventions and provides a powerful new tool in directing clients toward solution. Each individual element of trance induction is explained clearly, through the use of case examples, demonstrations, and audience participation exercises. The book's gradual approach takes readers through the hypnotic process in a step-by-step fashion, increasing their skills and confidence.

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Customer Reviews

I wish I had discovered this book sooner. Having read Rossi, Bandler, Grinder, Gilligan, etc., and
struggled to get through their overly analytical obfuscations of Erickson's methods, I was delighted with this simply written, clear, and easy to follow text. The reason I didn't buy it sooner was that I had read his other book "Taproots" and found it too abstract and disappointing. What a long way the author has come since he wrote Taproots! He presents Ericksonian ideas in a way that is delightful to read, down-to-earth, and effortless to follow. O'Hanlon is an excellent teacher, especially for those of us who are jargon-ically challenged. My only gripe is the high cost of this rather brief volume.

This is an engaging and extremely readable introduction to Ericksonian Hypnotherapy. Profoundly less "technical manual" than the Grinder Bandler stuff, yet is certainly not dumbed down. Written with humor and understanding in the informal style of a seminar in a manner that anyone could learn from. I would recommend this to anyone interested in Ericksonian Hypnosis.

O'Hanlon's introduction to solution-oriented work and Ericksonian hypnosis is top-rate, while managing to avoid excessively leaning on the purple coat-tails of Uncle Milty (Milton H. Erickson), or on anecdotes about how he was once hypnotized by Erickson himself and thus came to find the "true" path to therapeutic success. The experienced practitioner of hypnosis or solution-oriented therapy will find it an enjoyable read for an introductory review. Those experienced in one or the other modality will find something of value in learning about the overlap between the two disciplines, and the way they can amplify each other. For the curious reader interested in hypnosis, or the beginning student of either method, this is one of the best combinations of readable style and substance on the market.

Transcribed from conducting an actual workshop on hypnotic techniques, particularly Ericksonian techniques, the book flows well, is packed w/good info and usable scripts and suggestions; and I now have copious notes and 20 pages of protocol-matrix photocopies to put in my Erickson binder. I will say O'Hanlon offered the best exploration and explanation of Erickson's techniques that I've read thus far. The actual scripts putting the techniques into practical use are worth the book cost. Good reference book.

After this book you'll be able to put people in trance. It's very excellently written. I also have guide to trance land written by him and he amazed me again with this book. I highly recommend you buy this book if you want to practice hypnotherapy.
This book offers a look at hypnosis that focuses on a permissive technique rather than a suggestive approach to hypnosis to helping a client resolve their problems. The author believes we all know what we need to do within us but sometimes it’s a matter of bring ones subconscious to the conscious.

Very nearly everyone has had the experience of driving down the freeway for a long distance and pretty much focusing, so that they may not have heard something on the radio or failed to notice something in a field they were driving by. These are natural phenomena that most of us experience. We can call it deep focus, or trance, or not. Interested folks may allow themselves a fresh life experience reading _Solution-Oriented Hypnosis: An Ericksonian Approach_, by Bill O’Hanlon, who also offers a fine 20 hr course. I did. As a board certified distance therapist, of course it was of extreme interest to me. deep focus or no.

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