"This important work is an articulate and incisive elaboration of what the author considers to be a fundamental paradigm shift in psychoanalysis, from a superseded drive psychology to an interactional psychology embedded in a relational matrix which he argues is shared in common by a diversity of current perspectives—the object relational, the interpersonal, the Kleinian, and the self psychological. His thesis is that the conception of the object-relational matrix which these various newer theoretical perspectives share, despite all their differences in emphasis and in implementation, provides a more elegant and satisfying explanatory framework for the clinical phenomena of psychoanalysis than does Freud's original drive psychology paradigm, which can now be respectfully retired. Many will disagree, and very sharply; I think all will profit from reading this carefully reasoned argument."

-Robert S. Wallerstein, M.D.

"This is a marvellous book . . . Mitchell is a persuasive writer who skillfully draws together the central ideas from object relations theory, interpersonal psychoanalysis and the self-psychologies . . . The book is scholarly and informative, but yet it is readable, and enjoyably so. Mitchell does a wonderful job in bringing together the relational concepts embedded in the work of Bowlby, Klein, Winnicott, Fairbairn, Kohut, and others. Brought together in this way, the case against Freud's drive theory seems impressively self-evident . . This is an excellent book which brings together the relational concepts that now characterise psychotherapy. This is the leading edge of psychoanalysis, and Mitchell's work certainly helps it to advance."

-C. R. Whyte, British Journal of Psychiatry

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