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Doing Psychoanalysis in Tehran (Hardback)

By Gohar Homayounpour

MIT Press Ltd, United States, 2012. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. A Western-trained psychoanalyst returns to her homeland and tells stories of displacement, nostalgia, love, and pain. Is psychoanalysis possible in the Islamic Republic of Iran? This is the question that Gohar Homayounpour poses to herself, and to us, at the beginning of this memoir of displacement, nostalgia, love, and pain. Twenty years after leaving her country, Homayounpour, an Iranian, Western-trained psychoanalyst, returns to Tehran to establish a psychoanalytic practice. When an American colleague exclaims, I do not think that Iranians can free-associate! Homayounpour responds that in her opinion Iranians do nothing but. Iranian culture, she says, revolves around stories. Why wouldn't Freud's methods work, given Iranians need to talk? Thus begins a fascinating narrative of interlocking stories that resembles -- more than a little -- a psychoanalytic session. Homayounpour recounts the pleasure and pain of returning to her motherland, her passion for the work of Milan Kundera, her complex relationship with Kundera's Iranian translator (her father), and her own and other Iranians' anxieties of influence and disobedience. Woven throughout the narrative are glimpses of her sometimes frustrating, always candid, sessions with patients....


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