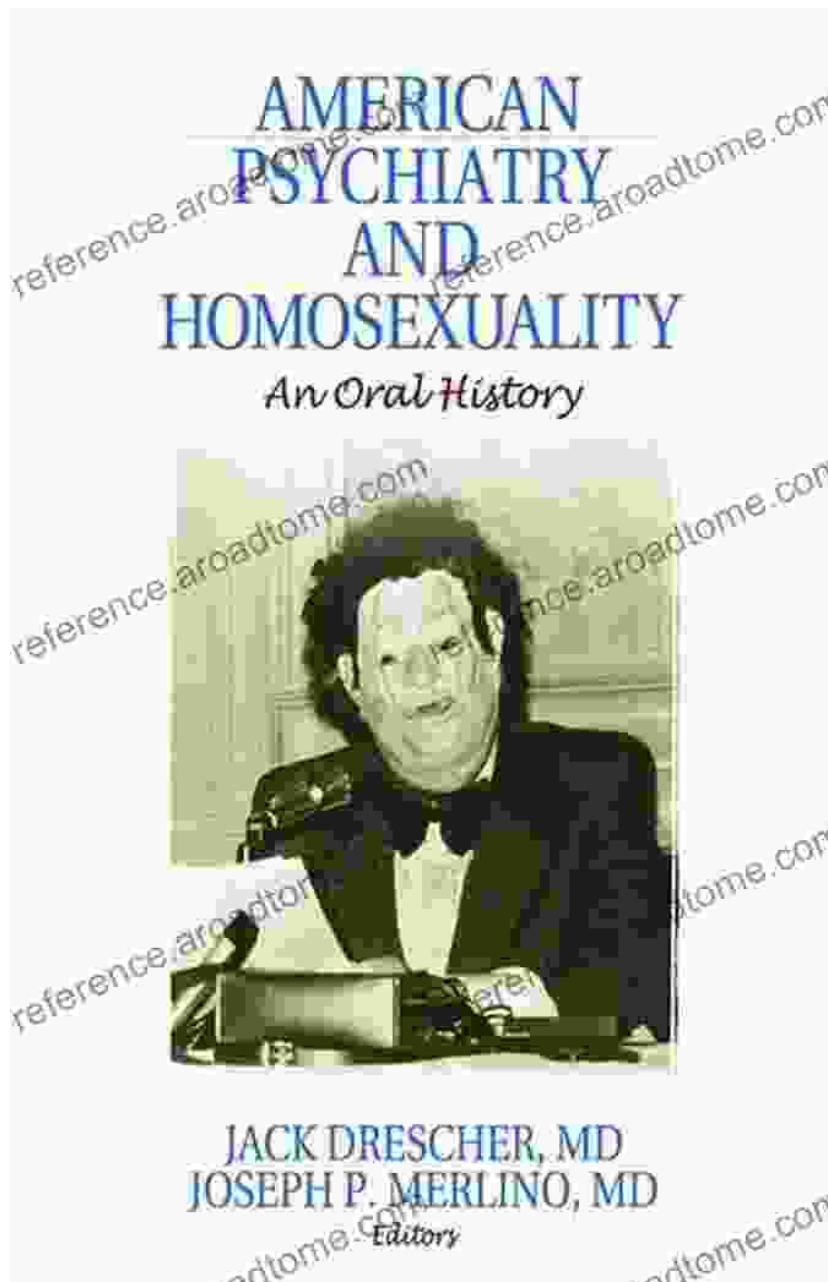


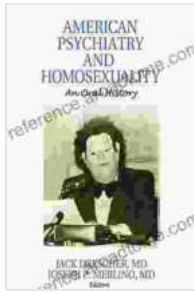
# Unveiling the Hidden History: American Psychiatry and Homosexuality



## American Psychiatry and Homosexuality: An Oral History

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 2141 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 327 pages



For over a century, American psychiatry has been inextricably intertwined with the issue of homosexuality. From its early classification as a mental illness to its eventual removal from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), the psychiatric profession has played a significant role in shaping societal attitudes towards same-sex desire and behavior.

In *American Psychiatry and Homosexuality: An Oral History*, authors Ronald Bayer and Judith Walzer Leavitt present a groundbreaking account of this complex history through the voices of those who lived it. Drawing on extensive interviews with leading psychiatrists, psychologists, and activists, the book offers a rare glimpse into the inner workings of the mental health establishment and its evolving understanding of homosexuality.

The book begins by exploring the roots of psychiatric homophobia in the Victorian era. At the time, homosexuality was widely seen as a moral failing and a threat to social order. Psychiatrists embraced these views and began to develop theories attributing same-sex desire to psychological disorders such as narcissism and hysteria.

In the mid-20th century, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) adopted the official position that homosexuality was a mental illness. This classification had far-reaching consequences, leading to the widespread discrimination and mistreatment of LGBTQ individuals. Many were subjected to forced treatments such as electroshock therapy and lobotomies in an attempt to "cure" their homosexuality.

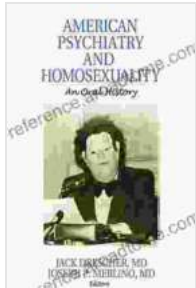
However, the 1960s and 1970s brought about a period of dramatic change. The growing LGBTQ rights movement, coupled with scientific research challenging the pathology of homosexuality, led to a shift in public opinion. In 1973, the APA finally voted to remove homosexuality from the DSM, a landmark decision that had a profound impact on the lives of LGBTQ people.

*American Psychiatry and Homosexuality* not only chronicles this historical journey but also delves into the personal stories of those involved. Readers will encounter psychiatrists who struggled to reconcile their personal experiences with the prevailing views of their profession, activists who fought tirelessly for LGBTQ rights, and patients who endured the stigma and discrimination associated with homosexuality.

The book's oral history format provides an intimate and nuanced account of the interplay between psychiatry and homosexuality. Through the voices of those who were there, we gain a deeper understanding of the motivations, beliefs, and prejudices that shaped the history of mental health treatment for LGBTQ individuals.

*American Psychiatry and Homosexuality* is an essential read for anyone interested in the history of psychiatry, LGBTQ rights, or the intersection of

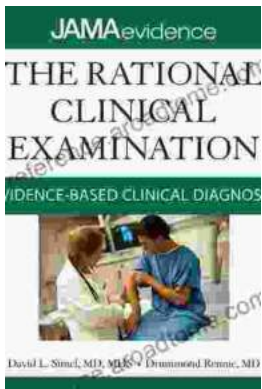
mental health and social issues. It is a powerful reminder of the ways in which societal biases can permeate the medical profession and impact the lives of millions of people.



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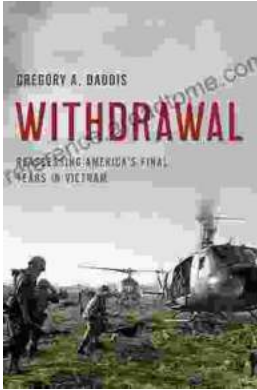
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