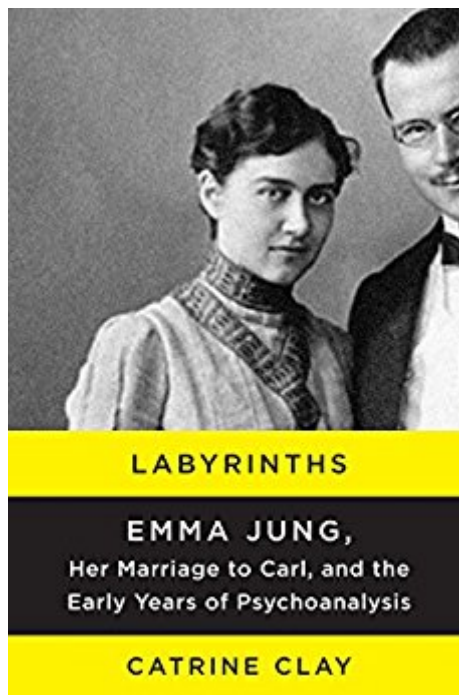




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# Labyrinths: Emma Jung, Her Marriage To Carl, And The Early Years Of Psychoanalysis



## Synopsis

A sensational, eye-opening account of Emma Jung's complex marriage to Carl Gustav Jung and the hitherto unknown role she played in the early years of the psychoanalytic movement. Clever and ambitious, Emma Jung yearned to study the natural sciences at the University of Zurich. But the strict rules of proper Swiss society at the beginning of the twentieth century dictated that a woman of Emma's stature "one of the richest heiresses in Switzerland" travel to Paris to "finish" her education, to prepare for marriage to a suitable man. Engaged to the son of one of her father's wealthy business colleagues, Emma's conventional and predictable life was upended when she met Carl Jung. The son of a penniless pastor working as an assistant physician in an insane asylum, Jung dazzled Emma with his intelligence, confidence, and good looks. More important, he offered her freedom from the confines of a traditional haute-bourgeois life. But Emma did not know that Jung's charisma masked a dark interior "fostered by a strange, isolated childhood and the sexual abuse he'd suffered as a boy" as well as a compulsive philandering that would threaten their marriage. Using letters, family interviews, and rich, never-before-published archival material, Catrine Clay illuminates the Jung's unorthodox marriage and explores how it shaped "and was shaped by" the scandalous new movement of psychoanalysis. Most important, Clay reveals how Carl Jung could never have achieved what he did without Emma supporting him through his private torments. The Emma that emerges in the pages of *Labyrinths* is a strong, brilliant woman, who, with her husband's encouragement, becomes a successful analyst in her own right.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Fascinating, altho focus is on Carl....

I don't normally read non-fiction. I prefer fictionalized biographies, but Labyrinths by Catrine Clay was entirely entertaining and well worth reading. It is obvious the author conducted in-depth research into Emma's life, drawing from personal letters, diaries, and articles of the time. Together, she gives us an intimate glimpse into the turbulent life of this famous couple. I also learned a great deal about psychoanalysis and the interpretation of dreams, a subject that has always fascinated me. If you adore reading about stoic, intelligent, and courageous women, despite facing numerous adversities, then this book is sure to keep you as entertained as it did me. Well worth reading!

Highly recommended!

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review by Harper Collins. When I started reading this book the only thing I knew about Emma Jung was that she was married to Carl but I do not have a good understanding of this complex woman and the driving forces in her life. We follow Emma over the course of her whole life but we spend the most time with her in the years of her marriage to Carl Jung. She was the woman behind the man and Emma did more for Carl than just be a wife, housekeeper, and mother. She was the steady center to his life. But Emma learned from Carl too and she became a talented and knowledgeable analysis herself. Clay does not hold back from the less than wonderful details about their life together. Carl was unstable and that affected Emma but she had to be the strong one and the faithful one. Carl was so busy being Carl Jung that he never really understood what Emma gave him. But in the end Emma found her own way in life and I think that she was happy with her life in the end. I give this book a Four out of Five stars.

As a cautionary note to those reading *Labyrinths: Emma Jung, Her Marriage to Carl, and the Early Years of Psychoanalysis* by Catrine Clay: The Author writes that Dr. Jung was

engaged in: "compulsive philandering that would threaten their marriage." This is misrepresentation and falsification of historical fact of which the author provides no documented proof of. Dr. Jung had a relationship with Emma Jung and Toni Wolff. Any further assertions are undocumented. The "Author" also falsely states that Dr. Jung was "The son of a penniless pastor." Anyone who has read *Memories, Dreams and Reflections* knows that Dr. Jung did not come from a wealthy family. But the fact is the family had the means to afford a maid. The "Author's" innuendo that Dr. Jung was "penniless" and Emma was a "wealthy heiress" is a slur unbecoming of the intellectual and ethical standards of any reputable author. The book abounds in such innuendos with no documented evidence of any Machiavellian motives on the part of Dr. Jung. Dr. Jung was sexually assaulted by someone he trusted as a child. The author does an injustice to Dr. Jung and all sexually molested children to draw the facile conclusion that as a result of such abuse Dr. Jung and all sexually abused children necessarily possess a "dark interior."

A thumbnail biography of Emma Jung, or rather of her husband Carl Jung, with a very brief account of the early years of psychoanalysis, perhaps a subject too difficult to be dealt with by a non-expert in this field. Asides on Lenin in Zurich Central Library and Joyce at the famed Kronenhalle add luster to a long-drawn-out story. Was Emma in fact a victim of hypogamy?

This book was very interesting to me as I think that Carl Jung was one of most influential thinkers in the 20th century. Emma has probably always lived in his gigantic shadow but nevertheless she was able to make her own life while coping with their marriage "à trois". The one important thing I missed in the book were her studies on the "Grail". I can recommend it to anybody interested in Carl Jung.

Thorough research. Jung was a very complicated man and Ms Clay did an excellent job of capturing Emma's trials as she learned to cope with her husband's oddities and his sometimes precarious mental state, while at the same time growing in her own right as an exceptional human being and eventual psychoanalyst.

I've read so much about Carl Jung and it was nice to hear the other side of the story and also to see Carl himself from another angle.

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