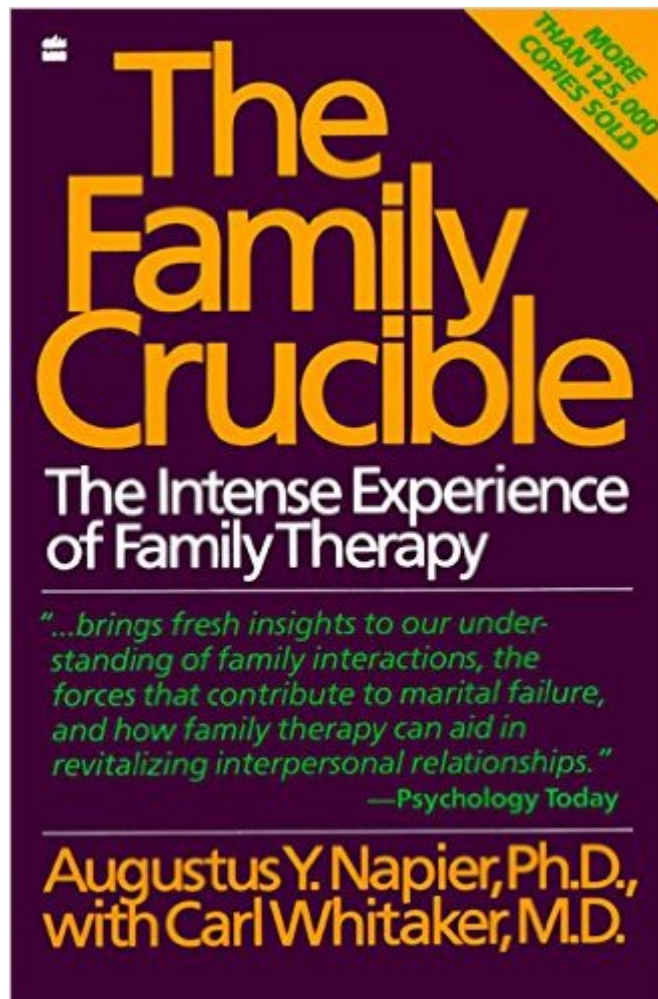


The book was found

# The Family Crucible: The Intense Experience Of Family Therapy (Perennial Library)



## Synopsis

This extraordinary book presents scenarios of one family's therapy experience and explains what underlies each encounter. You will discover the general patterns that are common to all families' stress, polarization and escalation, scapegoating, triangulation, blaming, and the diffusion of identity "and you will gain a vivid understanding of the intriguing field of family therapy.

## Book Information

Paperback: 301 pages

Publisher: Harper and Row (June 14, 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060914890

ISBN-13: 978-0060914899

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (134 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #23,942 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Marriage & Family #49 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Psychiatry #300 in Books > Medical Books > Psychology > General

## Customer Reviews

I first read this gem many years ago, long before I became a therapist myself. What an eye opener! Even reading the first Chapter (it's all of 11 pages) is enough to get you thinking in a fresh way about family problems. It certainly worked that way for me. The book really is about Carl Whitaker, M.D. Augustus Napier was his understudy. Whitaker worked within the idea of family-as-a-system without limiting himself too much with theory. This allowed his methods to evolve as he treated more and more families. And it allowed a book like this to be written: lucid because it makes so much sense, dramatic because so much happens in the family whose treatment it describes, hopeful because it shows how much impact family therapy can have. It wasn't that he didn't know theory. It's that as person he was intuitive, following his gut time and again, and eventually coming out with some guidelines for other family therapists, such as: -The therapist doesn't control the content of a family session, but she or he does control who will be there (this is dramatically dealt with in the first few chapters), -The therapist can cause change by stirring things up and getting family members to look at problems freshly, and -The therapist's job is to re-vision the problem as a communication that is somehow functional. Typical is Whitaker's view that often the "identified patient" in the family

is a stand-in for some other problem that the family cannot face without the help of a therapist. Since this great book was written family therapy went through a boom time, was very popular.

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