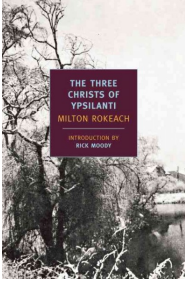


Books by the Stack



The Three Christs of Ypsilanti by Milton Rokeach

On July 1, 1959, at Ypsilanti State Hospital, the social psychologist Milton Rokeach brought together three paranoid schizophrenics. The three men had one thing in common: each believed himself to be Jesus Christ. Their extraordinary meeting and the two years they spent together serves as the basis for an investigation into the nature of human identity, belief, and delusion.

Why you'll like it: *Poignant. Amusing. Disturbing.*

About the Author: Milton Rokeach (1918-1988) was born in Hrubiesz, Poland, and at the age of seven moved with his family to Brooklyn. He received his BA from Brooklyn College in 1941. His studies were interrupted by a stint in the U.S. Army Air Forces Aviation Psychology Program. He returned to Berkeley in 1946 and received his PhD in 1947. Rokeach became a professor of psychology at Michigan State University and subsequently taught at the University of Western Ontario, Washington State University, and the University of Southern California. His famous psychological study *The Three Christs of Ypsilanti* (1964) has been made into a screenplay, a stage play, and two operas. His other major books are *The Open and Closed Mind* (1960), *Beliefs, Attitudes, and Values* (1968), and *The Nature of Human Values* (1973).

Rick Moody was born in New York City in 1961. He is the author of five novels, three collections of stories, and a memoir, *The Black Veil*. His work has been widely anthologized. He has taught at Bennington College, SUNY Purchase, New York University, and the New School for Social Research. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Questions for Discussion

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. Does Rokeach provide enough background material on the subjects to allow the readers to get involved?
3. Is the book objective and balanced or deeply personal and strongly biased?
4. How do you think Rokeach was changed by the experience of writing this book?
5. What did you find surprising about the facts introduced in this book?
6. Did any part of this book elicit a strong emotional reaction from you?
7. If you didn't like the book, how do you think it could be improved?

