

SIDE A:
THE SWAN BITES •
ADVENTURE ON
SKATES

SIDE B:
THE DOG WHO
COULD NOT BARK

The psyche can induce strange behavior in overly sensitive people—or animals. In these three stories, author Bernard Barshay penetrates the minds of a Vietnam veteran, an egocentric boy and a physically abused dog. He shows how abnormal fear can lead to the destruction of personality or life itself unless checked by circumstances, or better still, by love and understanding.

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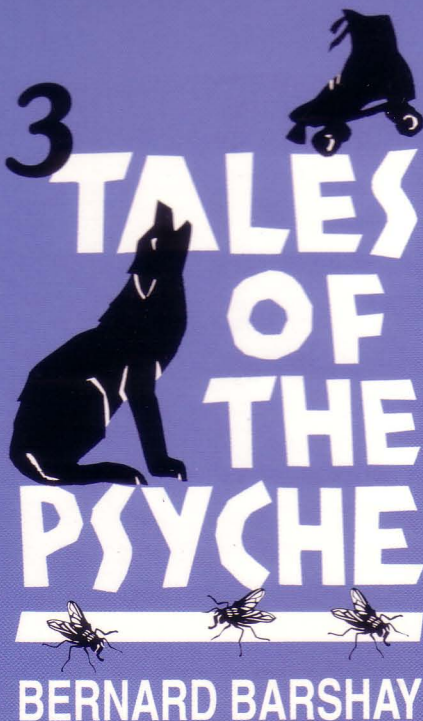
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FOLEWAYS

BERNARD BARSHAY
THREE TALES OF THE PSYCHE



9778

Folkways 9778
Three Tales of the Psyche
Written by Bernard Barshay
Read by Bernard Barshay and Henry Hamilton
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Side A

1. **The Swan Bites**
Read by Bernard Barshay
2. **Adventure on Skates**
Read by Henry Hamilton

Side B

3. **The Dog Who Could Not Bark**
Read by Bernard Barshay

Notes to Three Tales of the Psyche by Bernard Barshay

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The Dog Who Could Not Bark

Ellen, an elderly, blind Pennsylvania psychologist, discovers that her newest seeing eye dog cannot, or will not, bark. She believes that Holli was traumatized as a puppy by a cruel owner, who may have beaten her. Although Ellen and Holli become a smoothly functioning team, the psychologist wonders whether the Labrador

Retriever would come to her aid in an emergency at home by barking. But when her mistress has a heart attack in the apartment, Holli obtains immediate help from the tenant upstairs by a thunderous bark and saves her mistress' life.

The Swan Bites

Walter, serving in Vietnam, is overwhelmed by shock and grief when his wife, arriving at the Saigon airport on a visit, is killed by an enemy bomb. Following his hospitalization he is discharged from the armed forces as medically unfit and returns to his Connecticut home, bitter at his fate. His mental instability is epitomized by his obsession with flies, and his bizarre way of killing them, which deeply concerns Janice, his 15-year-old daughter. Her uncle, a New York psychiatrist, tells her there is hope for Walter if he can overcome his bitterness by being taught a lesson—emotionally, not intellectually. The imaginative Janice devises a plan and with some luck succeeds in restoring her father's mental balance.

Adventure on Skates

Billy, an overly sensitive, near-sighted 12-year-old, refuses to wear glasses except at home. He believes they spoil his handsome features. After roller skating to friend Frank's house for a long afternoon of play, Billy finds the November weather increasingly blustery on his way home. To speed his return he takes a shortcut downhill, though the Brooklyn streets are now dark. To his dismay, the road is much steeper than anticipated and he cannot even slow his breakneck pace. At each street crossing he is terrified. Without his glasses he cannot see what lies ahead and is unable to stop. Finally, approaching an extremely dangerous intersection, he risks making a U-turn. Losing his balance he falls and narrowly misses being struck by a speeding car. Though badly hurt, he is alive!

Publication note:

"The Dog Who Could Not Bark" was published in *Dogs Magazine*; "The Swan Bites" and "Adventure on Skates" were dramatized for television.

About the Author:

Bernard Barshay is a fiction writer, producer, actor, and journalist living in New York City. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Brooklyn College with a major in psychology. His writings have appeared as radio series, in print, on the stage, and on five Folkways albums.

Other Folkways recordings of Bernard Barshay's work include *Four American Murder Mysteries* (9781) *Two Short Stories of the Depression* (9783), *The Nineteen Sixties* (9784), *More Stories of the Depression* (9785), *Stories and Poems of New Guinea* (9786).

All of these titles are available on cassette by mail order from Smithsonian/Folkways Recordings. Telephone 202/287-3262 or write Smithsonian/Folkways Recordings, Office of Folklife Programs, 955 l'Enfant Plaza suite 2600, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 20560 for a catalogue and information on how to order these titles.

Dedicated to the memory of Moses Asch

Moses Asch, the founder of Folkways Records, contracted a number of recordings that he intended to produce after the acquisition of his company by the Smithsonian Institution. His untimely death in 1986 and subsequent changes in distribution and editorial policy delayed the appearance of these recordings until now. *Three Tales of the Psyche* by Bernard Barshay was one of the delayed projects, and is issued in memory of Moses Asch who began the project.

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings

Folkways Records was one of the largest independent record companies of the mid-twentieth century. Founded by Moses Asch in 1947 and run as an independent company until its sale in 1987, Folkways was dedicated to making the world of sound available to the public. Nearly 2,200 titles were issued, including a great variety of American folk and traditional music, children's songs, world music, literature, poetry, stories, documentaries, language instruction, and science and nature sounds.

The Smithsonian acquired Folkways in order to ensure that the sounds and the genius of the artists would continue to be available to future generations. Every title is being kept in print and new recordings are being issued. Administered by the Smithsonian's Office of Folklife Programs, Folkways Records is one of the ways the Office supports cultural conservation and continuity, integrity, and equity for traditional artists and cultures.

Several hundred Folkways recordings are distributed by Rounder Records. The rest are available on cassette by mail order from the Smithsonian Institution. For information and catalogs telephone 202/387-3262 or write Folkways, Office of Folklife Programs, 955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 2600, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.