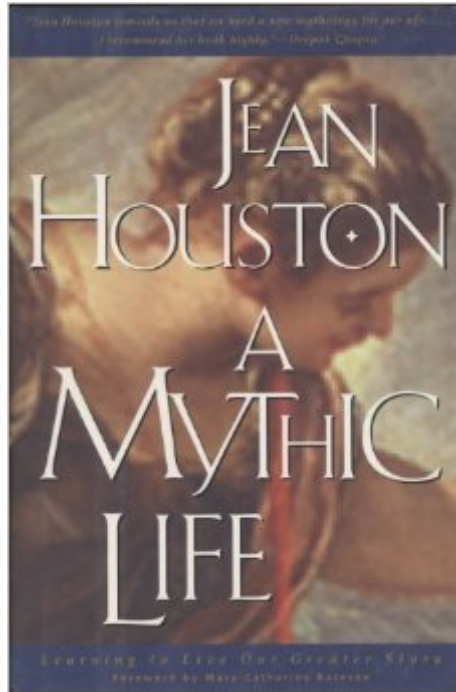


The book was found

# A Mythic Life: Learning To Live Our Greater Story



## Synopsis

A pioneer of the Human Potential movement explains how readers can reach their full potential and discover their true calling by connecting to the lives of the heroes and heroines of archetypal myths. \$75,000 ad/promo. Tour.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,110,699 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #704 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Psychology](#) #4915 in [Books > Self-Help > Spiritual](#) #12914 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Occult & Paranormal](#)

## Customer Reviews

Readers of this book will have sharply diverging reactions to it, and I myself am of two minds. At her worst, Jean Houston can come across like a precocious and hyperactive college kid: flip, full of herself, flaunting exuberance, self-promoting, greedy for catharsis, disorderly ideas sprouting everywhere like psychedelic mushrooms. On the other hand, at her best, she's brilliant, scholarly, profoundly creative, wise, kind, and funny. On the balance, happily, I found the latter set of characteristics predominant here, although the less attractive side of her nature will be readily apparent to anyone unsympathetic to her style and her philosophy. This is an autobiography of sorts, although one in a style that only Jean Houston could conceive: utterly non-linear. What she actually gives us is series of anecdotes from all stages of her life, interspersed chaotically with a fireworks display of philosophical musing, human potential pep talks, New Age proselytizing, scientific speculation, and lectures on her original brand of mystical anthropology. Interestingly, she's the daughter of neither a scholar nor a mystic, but of an itinerant Hollywood gag writer, whom she loved dearly and who ran the family like an overbearing-but-lovable gypsy king. Numerous accounts of his lautish stunts pepper his daughter's book and bring comic relief. He was a direct descendent of Sam Houston, the flamboyant Texan general and politician, laying down a genetic

strain that seems not at all improbable once you begin getting a sense of what Jean Houston is about. Of her retiring Sicilian-American mother, we learn very little. Dr.

I have never taken the time to review a book before, but after seeing the reviews posted for this book, I feel like I owe it to others who may, like me, read the book description and think that this is something along the lines of Joseph Campbell's works. So first of all, the official book description, and the description inside the dust jacket, bear effectively no relationship to the actual book inside. The book is written in the style of, and acts as if it were, an autobiography. For a certain element of the public, mainly people who are very, VERY into the New Age Movement and people who don't care to think critically about what they're reading, this could pass as legitimate autobiography. To those who are very forgiving, perhaps it could be viewed as the author's self-aggrandized view of her life, even if it may have not actually played out the way she remembers. I'm pretty sure that it's just made-up fancy-talk parading as spiritualism. For context, this is the person who guided Hillary Clinton, during her First Lady years, through deep trance meetings with the spirit of Eleanor Roosevelt. She claims to have multiple PhD's, but in an interview with Stone Phillips she admitted that she made a mistake about that. According to Columbia University, she never completed the claimed Doctoral Program. She did receive a PhD in Psychology from Cincinnati Union Institute (an "alternative education program") in 1973. The Institute actually became accredited 12 years later. She calls herself a "psychologist," but the New York State board says that she is not accredited, and is not allowed to use that title. These are some of her less wild claims.

*A Mythic Life* is the memoir of Jean Houston. Houston is a world leader in personal and social transformation. She anachronistically weaves the reader through her dreams, her conversations, her childhood, and her adulthood. With each thread of her weaving, she describes events in her life and how each event or fractal led to her path as a spiritual teacher. Her memoir draws parallels to how people have important past events that help them blossom and fulfill their present lives. Houston's childhood involved moving often, some years several times in one school year. The moving taught her to observe, adapt, and join groups. Perhaps it was this constant out-siderness that allowed her to pause, even as a child, to see how people interact with each other and to learn how to employ optimal ways for people to work together. She shares her revelations that directed her to help people and communities deepen their creativity and their potential. It's been Houston's pursuit to engage people and communities to exercise their full potential by spiritually reaching inwardly and outwardly. The text is full of wisdom nuggets like: "Wounding often involves a painful

excursion into pathos, we experience massive anguish, and the suffering cracks the boundaries of what we thought we could stand. And yet, time and again, I discover that the wounding pathos of our local stories contains the seeds of healing and even of transformation."and"On her deathbed, Margaret [Mead] suggested to me that the answers lie not with economic or political initiatives but with a deepened citizenry. We can transform the world only by transforming ourselves, for what threatens our survival is not weaponry or technology but the people who use them.

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