About the Author

BERNARD J. PARIS is the leading authority on Karen Horney and the application of her psychoanalytic theories in literary criticism. His first book, Experiments in Life: George Eliot's Quest for Values, reflects his training in thematic analysis and the history of ideas. He has subsequently published a series of studies that employ Karen Horney's theories to examine a variety of authors and critical issues. These include A Psychological Approach to Fiction: Studies in Thackeray, Stendhal, George Eliot, Dostoevsky, and Conrad; Character and Conflict in Jane Austen's Novels: A Psychological Approach; Bargains with Fate: Psychological Crises and Conflicts in Shakespeare and His Plays; and Character as a Subversive Force in Shakespeare: The History and Roman Plays. He has edited Third Force Psychology and the Study of Literature and coedited Shakespeare's Personality (with Norman Holland and Sidney Homan). His most recent book, Karen Horney: A Psychoanalyst's Search for Self-Understanding, was selected as a Notable Book of the Year by the New York Times Book Review.

Paris received his Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins University and has taught at Lehigh University, Michigan State, and the University of Florida, where he is Emeritus Professor of English and former director of the Institute for Psychological Study of the Arts. He has been Visiting Professor at the Victorian Studies Centre of the University of Leicester and has held NEH and Guggenheim fellowships. He is an Honorary Member of the Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis, a Scientific Associate of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis, and a member of the editorial board of The American Journal of Psychoanalysis. He is founder and director of the International Karen Horney Society.
"In this excellent book, Bernard Paris looks at literary characters from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Ibsen and Barth, exploring their personalities, their devious motivations, their half-successful solutions to the eternal problems. In doing so, he takes us back to the root and profoundest appeal of literature, our response to these imagined human beings as though they were real people. His unusually astute psychoanalytic criticism shows show the most interesting literature arises from the tension between the language and what is really—so to speak—going on."

—Norman N. Holland, author of The I

"This is literary criticism at its most perceptive. Theory is subservient to a deeply engaged reading of works Professor Paris clearly loves. To read his analysis of Emma Bovary or Hedda Gabler is to gain an enriched insight into characters whom we thought we knew so well."

—Phyllis Grosskurth, author of Byron, The Flawed Angel

One of literature's greatest sources of pleasure and fascination is its portrayal of realistically drawn characters—human beings in whom we can recognize the motivations and emotions of people like ourselves. In Imagined Human Beings, Bernard J. Paris explores the inner conflicts of some of literature's most famous characters, using Karen Horney's psychoanalytic theories to understand the behavior of these characters as we would the behavior of real people.

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