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The Therapeutic "Aha!": 10 Strategies for Getting Your Clients Unstuck

Courtney Armstrong

Courtney Armstrong's *The Therapeutic "Aha!"* explores the thrilling and rare moment when a client reaches an elusive realization, allowing them to make meaningful change. In 10 straightforward strategies, this practical book demonstrates how to shake things up in therapy when a client is stuck or stalled to jumpstart progress. Readers will learn how to spark the "emotional brain"—the part of the brain that houses automatic, unconscious patterns—and create new neural pathways that engage and advance the healing process.

Divided into three parts—(1) Awakening a Session, (2) Healing Emotional Wounds, and (3) Activating Experiential Change—the book walks readers through specific techniques for harnessing the emotional brain and repatterning its routine. Elegant therapeutic insights and coping strategies only go so far; until we intervene with something our emotional brain can understand—a compelling felt experience—old, established neural patterns will persist. The brain-based strategies Armstrong presents include how to enliven the therapeutic alliance; elicit exciting goals; identify the root of an emotional conflict; reverse trauma with memory reconsolidation; invoke inspirational

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imagery; and use stories, humor, music, poetry, and even mindfulness to induce change.

Concise, reader-friendly, and filled with helpful case stories and client-therapist dialogue, this wonderfully accessible book puts a new spin on neuroscience knowledge, showing clinicians exactly how it can be used to make those once-elusive therapeutic breakthroughs more frequent, leading to greater healing for your patients.

"Written in a warm, friendly tone, Armstrong provides clinicians with fresh strategies for respectfully resolving resistance, engaging clients more fully in the change process, and inspiring hope and possibility for even their most challenging clients." —Bill O'Hanlon, author of Out of the Blue and Becoming a Published Therapist

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Courtney Armstrong, MEd, a licensed professional counselor, gives national trainings and workshops on a variety of topics for mental health professionals. She contributes to *Psychotherapy Networker* and other books and journals and has made several radio and TV appearances for her expertise in grief and trauma.

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