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Me, Myself, and Why: Searching for the Science of Self

By Ouellette, Jennifer.

Penguin. 1 Paperback(s), 2014. soft. Book Condition: New. As diverse as people appear to be, all of our genes and brains are nearly identical, notes science writer Jennifer Ouellette. Also the author of *The Calculus Diaries* and *Black Bodies* and *Quantum Cats*, as well as the blogger behind ScientificAmerican.com's "Cocktail Party Physics," Ouellette here dives into the miniscule ranges of variation to understand just what sets us apart and to explore the mysteries of human identity and behavior. We follow her journey of self-discovery as she has her genome sequenced, her brain mapped, her personality typed, and even samples a hallucinogen. "Ouellette offers curiosity-inspiring glimpses into science, coupled with an obvious love for the material and a healthy dose of humor. The combination of historical anecdote and current research is impressive." NYTBR "Ouellette leapfrogs through scientific, philosophical, and even pop history, which makes for fun reading as she expresses her views of an array of figures and artifacts, from Gregor Mendel to Francis Galton, John Locke to Kevin Bacon, Harry Potter movies to Christopher Nolan's mind-bending sci-fi film, *Inception*. She discusses the so-called Prozac gene, brain scans, the 'hangover gene,' avatars, sexual orientation and gender-atypical behaviors, the persistence and accuracy of memory,...



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