

The Personality Brokers: The Strange History of Myers-Briggs and the Birth of Personality Testing

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Summary:

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An unprecedented history of a personality test devised in the 1940s by a mother and daughter, both homemakers, that has achieved cult-like status and is used in today's most distinguished boardrooms, classrooms, and beyond.

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator is the most popular personality test in the world. It has been harnessed by Fortune 100 companies, universities, hospitals, churches, and the military. Its language - of extraversion vs. introversion, thinking vs. feeling - has inspired online dating platforms and BuzzFeed quizzes alike. And yet despite the test's widespread adoption, experts in the field of psychometric testing, a \$500 million industry, struggle to account for its success - no less to validate its results. How did the Myers-Briggs test insinuate itself into our jobs, our relationships, our Internet, our lives?

First conceived in the 1920s by the mother-daughter team of Katherine Briggs and Isabel Briggs Myers, a pair of aspiring novelists and devoted homemakers, the Myers-Briggs was designed to bring the gospel of Carl Jung to the masses. But it would take on a life of its own, reaching from the smoke-filled boardrooms of mid-century New York to Berkeley, California, where it was honed against some of the twentieth century's greatest creative minds. It would travel across the world to London, Zurich, Cape Town, Melbourne, and Tokyo; to elementary schools, nunneries, wellness retreats, and the closed-door corporate training sessions of today. Drawing from original reporting and never-before-published documents, The Personality Brokers examines nothing less than the definition of the self - our attempts to grasp, categorize, and quantify our personalities. Surprising and absorbing, the book, like the test at its heart, considers the timeless question: What makes you you?

â€”The Personality Brokersâ€™™ Conjures the Mother and Daughter ... The Personality Brokers The Strange History of Myers-Briggs and the Birth of Personality Testing By Merve Emre 307 pages. Doubleday. \$27.95. Follow New York Times Books on Facebook and Twitter, sign up for our newsletter or our literary calendar. And listen to us on the Book Review podcast. The Personality Brokers - PenguinRandomHouse.com The Personality Brokers is history that reads like biography that reads like a novelâ€”a fluid narrative that defies expectations and plays against type.â€” The Personality Brokers: The Strange History of Myers ... The Personality Brokers is the fascinating history behind the Myers-Briggs test and the mother-daughter duo who created it. The book was incredibly well-written and well-researched and raised interesting questions about personality psychology, which interest me greatly.

The Personality Brokers: The Strange History of Myers ... Drawing from original reporting and never-before-published documents, The Personality Brokers takes a critical look at the personality indicator that became a cultural icon. Along the way it examines nothing less than the definition of the self--our attempts to grasp, categorize, and quantify our personalities. The Personality Brokers - Quiet Revolution The Personality Brokers By Merve.Emre Excerpted with permission from Chapter Fourteen: One in a Million of The Personality Brokers: The Strange History of Myers-Briggs and Personality Testing. The Personality Brokers : NPR The Personality Brokers NPR coverage of The Personality Brokers: The Strange History of Myers-Briggs and the Birth of Personality Testing by Merve Emre. News, author interviews, critics' picks and more.

â€”The Personality Brokersâ€™™ Review: A Blurred View of Who ... By calling the test result an â€œindicator,â€” Myers and Briggs removed the potential anxiety of being found wanting. The personality brokers - Late Night Live - ABC Radio ... Author Merve Emre discusses her book The personality brokers: the strange history of Myers-Briggs and the birth of personality testing.

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