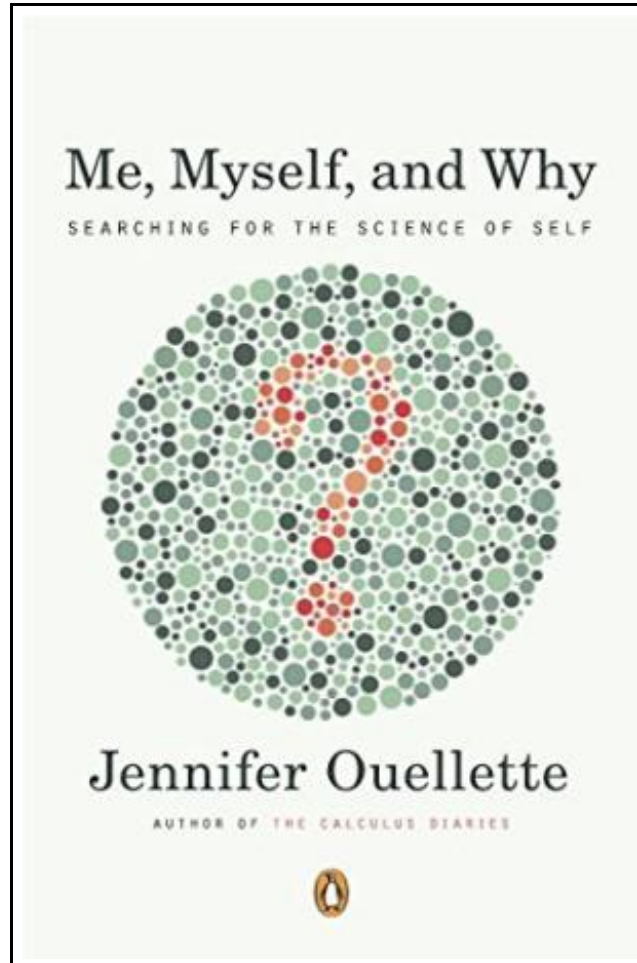


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Penguin. 1 Paperback(s), 2014. soft. Book Condition: New. As diverse as people appear to be, all of our genes and brains are nearly identical, notes science writer Jennifer Ouellette. Also the author of *The Calculus Diaries* and *Black Bodies and 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, consciousness and the soul, and other provocative topics. Sometimes she's funny, such as when she experiments with LSD for 'research' purposes; other times, poignant: 'Everyone finds their own way to create meaning out of our allotted time on this Earth.' An entertaining, insightful, and thoughtful reflection on our assumptions about ourselves and the mystery that is at the heart of the human story." *Booklist* (starred review) 348.

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