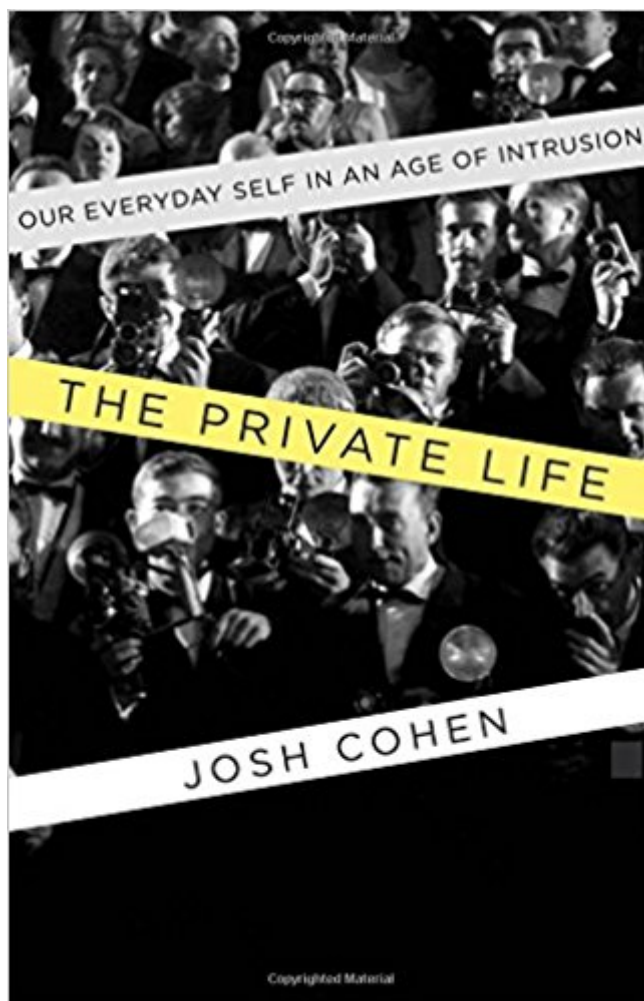


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The Private Life: Our Everyday Self In An Age Of Intrusion



Synopsis

With social networking and reality television, self-help columns and daytime talk shows, there's an infinite array of platforms to both expose our deepest thoughts and examine the thoughts of others. In this age of non-stop communication, one's privacy is subject to unrelenting examination, intrusion, and attack from the media, the government, friends, family, and complete strangers. So what are we trying to hide? And what are we trying to find out about others? Practicing psychoanalyst and professor of literature Josh Cohen tackles those questions in his study of privacy and personality, the "most vulnerable and indestructible region of your self." Using Sigmund Freud's theories on identity and the ego as a foundation, Cohen weaves through time and place to study an extensive variety of people who unearthed and revealed the rawest form of their selves. From Adam and Eve to the ballerinas in the hit 2010 film *Black Swan*, from Hester Prynne to British celebrity Katie Price, Cohen finds Freud's ideas in both fiction and reality alike. Yet even with all the times that we've exposed the inner workings of our psyches, Cohen is sure to emphasize that some part of every individual will always remain hidden. Like Freud once wrote, "The ego is not master in its own house." In a culture that floods our lives with light, how is it that we remain so helplessly in the dark?

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[Praise for the UK Edition]"In this erudite volume, he sets out to discover what we mean by privacy, and whether we are even aware of our innermost thoughts." "The

Independent“Elegant and suggestive… You donâ™t have to accept the entire conceptual apparatus of psychoanalysis to find all this compelling.â • —The Guardian“In this highly topical and fascinating book, Josh Cohen takes a psychoanalytical eye to our culture.â • —The Telegraph

Josh Cohen is Professor of Modern Literary Theory at Goldsmiths, University of London and a psychoanalyst in private practice. He is the author of several books and articles on modern literature, cultural theory, and psychoanalysis, including *How to Read Freud*.

Very interesting and insightful.

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