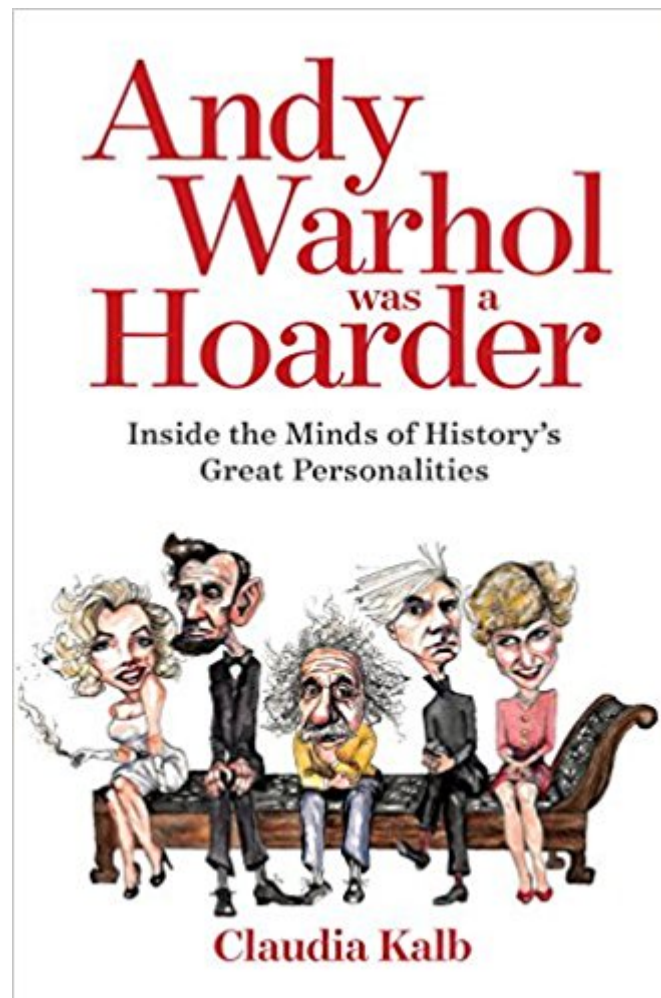




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Andy Warhol Was A Hoarder: Inside The Minds Of History's Great Personalities



Synopsis

Was Andy Warhol a hoarder? Did Einstein have autism? Was Frank Lloyd Wright a narcissist? In this surprising, inventive, and meticulously researched look at the evolution of mental health, acclaimed health and science journalist Claudia Kalb gives readers a glimpse into the lives of high-profile historic figures through the lens of modern psychology, weaving groundbreaking research into biographical narratives that are deeply embedded in our culture. From Marilyn Monroe's borderline personality disorder to Charles Darwin's anxiety, Kalb provides compelling insight into a broad range of maladies, using historical records and interviews with leading mental health experts, biographers, sociologists, and other specialists. Packed with intriguing revelations, this smart narrative brings a new perspective to one of the hottest new topics in today's cultural conversation.

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Customer Reviews

“[Author Claudia Kalb] fruitfully employs diverse sources, including psychology studies and published biographies, to tell the undeniably fascinating stories of her subjects. This is an informative compilation and it’s certain to provide readers with fascinating stories to share about an array of famous names.” —Publishers Weekly “Kalb’s well-written exercise in applying modern psychiatric theory to historical figures, from Marilyn Monroe to Albert Einstein to Charles Darwin, certainly makes for some very entertaining armchair speculation.” —Booklist, starred review “With keen insight and a writerly flair, Claudia

Kalb, one of the nation's pre-eminent science journalists, has written a book that is at once profound and a great deal of fun. She takes us on an engrossing and original journey into the minds (and, yes, the madresses) of some of history's most intriguing figures. Kalb explores nothing less than the mysteries of genius and of individuality." — Jon Meacham, Pulitzer-Prize-winning author of *American Lion* — "A brilliant and fascinating journey into the perils that so often accompany genius. Spell-binding." — Edward Hallowell, M.D., co-author of *Driven to Distraction* — "With a sharp eye but forgiving, deep-seated sense of humanity, Claudia Kalb takes us into the netherworld where emotions make (and break) extraordinary figures from Marilyn Monroe to Albert Einstein. Compelling, intriguing, surprising and fun." — Evan Thomas, author of *Richard Nixon: A Man Divided* — "Claudia Kalb uses insights about the great men and women of history to animate today's most gripping mental health headlines | A wonderful book." — Robin Marantz Henig, New York Times Magazine contributing writer and President, National Association of Science Writers — "Ms. Kalb gently reframes the narratives of seemingly familiar but quirky celebrities and raises important questions to popular attitudes towards mental health." — Forbes.com — "Claudia Kalb provides compelling insight into the fine line between mental illness and greatness and creativity that plagued some of history's most celebrated icons." — Caroline Howe for Dailymail.com — "While not a business book per se, her [Kalb's] work does have relevance as more people are becoming aware of mental illness as a workplace issue." — Harvard Business Review — "Mixing celebrity stories with a psychological analysis of their personalities | I found this to be a great read." — Celebrity Books — "Kalb doesn't just look at the possible positive effect of mental illness on creativity... She also examines the ways psychological disturbances can tragically cut short creative endeavors." — BookPage

CLAUDIA KALB, an award-winning journalist who reports on a wide variety of health and science topics, is known for combining serious reporting with engaging, accessible writing. A former senior writer at Newsweek who has contributed to Smithsonian and Scientific American, Kalb has penned hundreds of features on topics ranging from depression and PTSD to painkiller addiction and the surge in drugs used to treat ADHD. She is now a freelance writer and editor.

This is a fascinating glimpse into the minds and disorders of a dozen notable personalities. Each chapter provides a concise biography of the subject, focusing on a unique personality trait that

defined them. The chapters also delve into the background of the particular maladies and how they have been treated throughout history. Well written and fun to read, the book will peak interest in reading more about the individuals. I found some chapters more interesting than others but it depends on how much you have read about the particular person. I found the Marilyn Monroe chapter mundane but I had heard all of the information before. I found the chapters on people that I was not that familiar with (Christine Jorgenson, George Gershwin) to be more fascinating. The subjects and their conditions include: Marilyn Monroe (borderline personality disorder) Howard Hughes (obsessive-compulsive disorder) Andy Warhol (hoarding) Princess Diana (bulimia) Abraham Lincoln (depression) Christine Jorgenson (transgender) Frank Lloyd Wright (narcissism) Betty Ford (alcoholism/drug addiction) Charles Darwin (anxiety) George Gershwin (hyperactivity) Fyodor Dostoevsky (gambling addiction) Albert Einstein (Asperger's syndrome)

I ordered this book after a year or two of thinking about the fine line between sanity and madness. I was fascinated by the stories of all these people and their successes despite their mental challenges. We are all part of the same human race!

A very interesting read on how many of our celebrities (and most likely all of us) suffer from some sort of mental disorder to some degree or another. The issue is how we deal with it and maximize its strengths, and recognize and address its weaknesses. Read it straight through.

The subject matter of this book, the mental disorders of 12 famous people, had plenty of opportunity to come off as pedantic. It doesn't. It is very readable and interesting. You'll find yourself going, "Oh, that explains a lot." A nice read.

To think that if some of these geniuses had been born today they may not have fared as well. It's a good book in that we can look at "differentness" in a new light. Perhaps like Temple says..we need the brain that is somewhat "not normal" to have the innovative thinker.

The Andy Warhol chapter was riveting, and, indeed, it sounds like Warhol's apartment was proof that he hoarded. I was much less convinced that Frank Lloyd Wright was a narcissist, that we can slap a diagnosis on Marilyn Monroe, and that Einstein's sloppy dress and visual thinking qualify him as having Asperger's. The first chapter was worth the price of the book though.

This is an insightful book into the minds/behaviors of a variety of well-known, famous people. This book gives us an idea of different diagnoses can be made for a type of behavior, yet, mental health is so diverse and so much is being learned as time goes on. A great read!

I'm a psychotherapist and greatly enjoyed this book. This would make a terrific, fun textbook for a psychology class. Kalb is a good writer and has done a lot of research; I especially like the quotes from specialists in each field explored. I was on the fence between giving this 4 or 5 stars, because I wish the chapters were just a little longer.

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