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The Man Who Wasn't There: Tales from the Edge of the Self (Paperback)

By Anil Ananthaswamy

Penguin Putnam Inc, United States, 2016. Paperback.

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In the tradition of Oliver Sacks, science journalist Anil Ananthaswamy skillfully inspects the bewildering connections among brain, body, mind, self, and society by examining a range of neuropsychological ailments from autism and Alzheimer's to out-of-body experiences and body integrity identity disorder. Award-winning science writer Anil Ananthaswamy smartly explores the concept of self by way of several mental conditions that eat away at patients' identities, showing we learn a lot about being human from people with a fragmented or altered sense of self. Ananthaswamy travelled the world to meet those who suffer from maladies of the self, interviewing patients, psychiatrists, philosophers and neuroscientists along the way. He charts how the self is affected by Asperger's, autism, Alzheimer's, epilepsy, schizophrenia, among many other mental conditions, revealing how the brain constructs our sense of self. Each chapter is anchored with stories of people who experience themselves differently from the norm. Readers meet individuals in various stages of Alzheimer's disease where the loss of memory and cognition results in the loss of some aspects of the self. We meet a woman who recalls the...



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