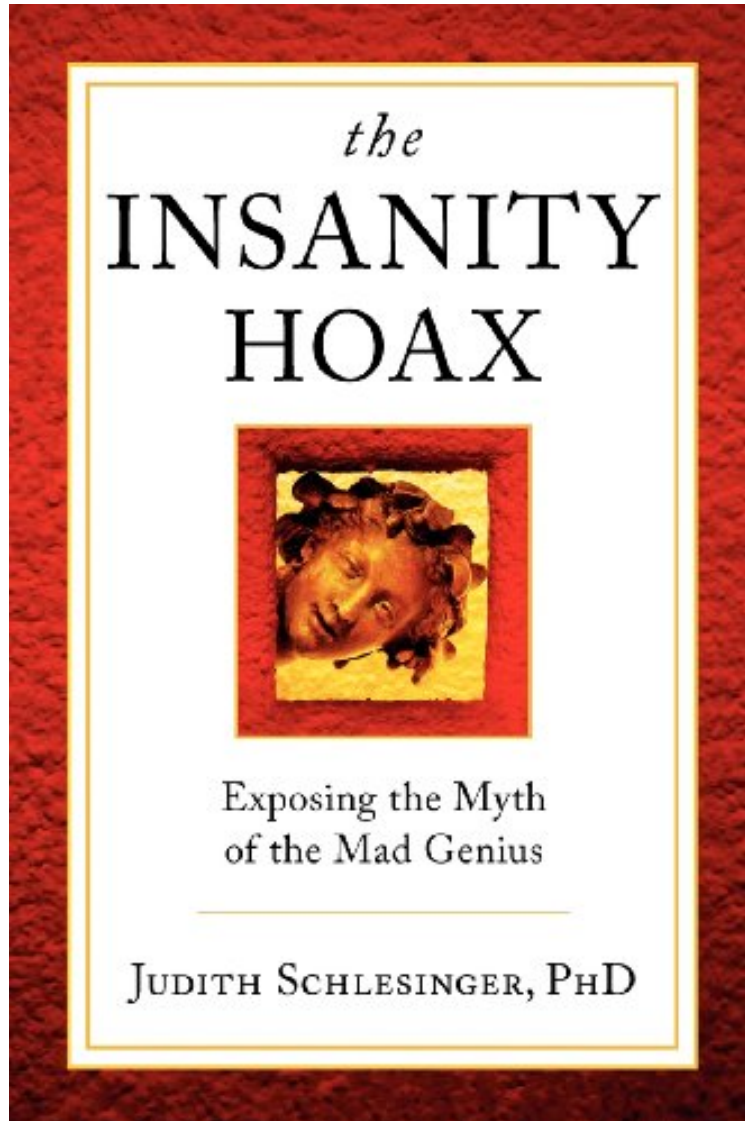


(Free) The Insanity Hoax: Exposing the Myth of the Mad Genius

The Insanity Hoax: Exposing the Myth of the Mad Genius

Judith Schlesinger

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Judith Schlesinger : The Insanity Hoax: Exposing the Myth of the Mad Genius before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Insanity Hoax: Exposing the Myth of the Mad Genius:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An extremely well-researched analysis of the controversial subject of the ...By CustomerAn extremely well-researched analysis of the controversial subject of the long-standing theory of madness as a pre-condition of artistic genius.Written in a friendly, good-humoured style, the author goes to considerable effort to de-bunk the theory and the prejudice surrounding the work of many psychologists. Some may

find the criticism of psychiatrists somewhat excessive, but overall the book is a thought provoking study, and the extensive research as indicated in the many references is proof of the author's sincerity in shedding light on a situation which has existed literally for centuries.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must for those who really want to understand this topicBy CTThis book is a must for those who really want to understand this controversial and surprisingly complex topic. The author's enthusiasm makes this book an enjoyable read and her conversational writing style makes it accessible to casual readers (as opposed to just psychologists and psychiatrists).1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Elegantly writtenBy TeacherI have seldom read a book that is so well written. It was worth reading just for how well it is written. The author is clever, eclectic, witty, knowledgeable and convincing. It was a pleasure to read.

This groundbreaking book sheds new light on an old and destructive stereotype: the idea that the highly talented must suffer a lifetime of psychological torment in payment for their exceptional gifts. Despite exaggerated professional claims, widespread popular assumptions, and the dramatic parade of "mad geniuses" in the media, no one has ever proved that creative people are more prone to psychopathology than any other group. The *Insanity Hoax* tracks this fantasy's history from its birth in ancient Greece to today, showing how Plato's benevolent "divine madness" slowly darkened into a symptom of bipolar disorder -- and why the myth is too deeply embedded in society to ever disappear. Psychologist, educator, and jazz writer Dr. Judith Schlesinger uses her three decades of research and creative and clinical experience to make a convincing case, while providing a witty and entertaining read.

"In this original and passionate work, Judith takes on one of the great Western myths and serves up her painstaking research with equal portions of wit, wisdom and criticism. An emancipatory book." - David Cohen, PhD, Professor of Social Work, and Distinguished Tocqueville-Fulbright Chair, Florida International University"Fascinating, insightful, and surprisingly funny." - Chris Brubeck, "fairly sane and highly functional" jazz musician and classical composer."In her skillful and entertaining dissection of the myth, Schlesinger deconstructs the pseudoscience used to support it, while illuminating the deep cultural functions that this myth can serve for society and the geniuses themselves." - Stuart A. Kirk, DSW, coauthor of *The Selling of DSM, Making Us Crazy*, and the forthcoming *Mad Science*.About the AuthorJudith Schlesinger, PhD has spent her entire life marveling at creativity and surrounding herself with others who cherish it. Psychologist, psychotherapist, author, educator, musician, jazz critic, and producer, she believes that genius should be celebrated, not diagnosed.