identical strangers a memoir of twins separated and reunited elyse schein

Identical Strangers - A Memoir of Twins Separated and Reunited

As seen in the hit documentary Three Identical Strangers • “[A] poignant memoir of twin sisters who were split up as infants, became part of a secret scientific study, then found each other as adults.”—Reader’s Digest (Editors’ Choice) WINNER OF A BOOKS FOR A BETTER LIFE AWARD Elyse Schein had always known she was adopted, but it wasn’t until her mid-thirties while living in Paris that she searched for her biological mother. What she found instead was shocking: She had an identical twin sister. What’s more, after being separated as infants, she and her sister had been, for a time, part of a secret study on separated twins. Paula Bernstein, a married writer and mother living in New York, also knew she was adopted, but had no inclination to find her birth mother. When she answered a call from her adoption agency one spring afternoon, Paula’s life suddenly divided into two starkly different periods: the time before and the time after she learned the truth. As they reunite, taking their tentative first steps from strangers to sisters, Paula and Elyse are left with haunting questions surrounding their origins and their separation. And when they investigate their birth mother’s past, the sisters move closer toward solving the puzzle of their lives. Praise for Identical Strangers “Remarkable . . . powerful . . . [an] extraordinary experience . . . The reader is left to marvel at the reworking of individual identities required by one discovery and then another.”—Boston Sunday Globe “Absorbing.”—Wired “[A] fascinating memoir . . . Weaving studies about twin science into their personal reflections . . . Schein and Bernstein provide an intelligent exploration of how identity intersects with bloodlines. A must-read for anyone interested in what it means to be a family.”—Bust “Identical Strangers has all the heart-stopping drama you’d expect. But it has so much more—the authors’ emotional honesty and clear-eyed insights turn this unique story into a universal one. As you accompany the twins on their search for the truth of their birth, you witness another kind of birth—the germination and flowering of sisterly love.”—Deborah Tannen, #1 New York Times bestselling author of You Just Don’t Understand “A transfixing memoir.”—Publishers Weekly

Identical Strangers - A memoir of twins separated and reunited

Elyse Schein had always known she was adopted, but it wasn't until her mid-thirties that she searched for her biological mother. When Elyse contacted her adoption agency, she was not prepared for the shocking, life-changing news she received: she had an identical twin sister. Paula Bernstein, a married writer and mother living in New York, also knew she was adopted, but had no inclination to find her birth mother. When she answered a call from her adoption agency one spring afternoon, Paul's life suddenly divided into two starkly different periods: the time before and the time after she learned the truth. As they reunite and take their tentative first steps from strangers to sisters, Paul and Elyse learn that they were separated at birth as part of a secret study conducted by a pair of influential psychiatrists. They write with emotional honesty about the immediate intimacy they share as twins and the wide chasm that divides them as two
complete strangers. Interweaving eye-opening studies and statistics on twin science into their story, IDENTICAL STRANGERS offers an intelligent and heartfelt glimpse into human nature. It is an account that broadens the definition of family and provides insight into our own DNA and the singularly exceptional imprint it leaves on our lives.

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**Separated @ Birth - A True Love Story of Twin Sisters Reunited**

It all began when design student Anaæs Bordier viewed a YouTube video and saw her own face staring back. After some research, Anaæs found that the Los Angeles actress Samantha Futerman was born in a South Korean port city called Busan on 19 November 1987 - the exact same location and day that Anaæs was born. This propelled her to make contact on Facebook. One message later, both girls wondered: Could they be twins? Thus begins their remarkable journey to build a relationship as sisters, continents apart.

**Indivisible by Two - Lives of Extraordinary Twins**

The joys and real-life traumas of twelve remarkable sets of twins, triplets, and quintuplets are revealed in this collection of stories that are a reminder of how incompletely any theory explains real life.

**Accidental Brothers - The Story of Twins Exchanged at Birth and the Power of Nature and Nurture**

"A unique window into human behavior and development." —Steven Pinker The riveting story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth and improbably reunited as adults, a dream case for exploring nature and nurture. Accidental Brothers tells the unique story of two sets of identical Colombian twin brothers who discovered at age 25 that they were mistakenly raised as fraternal twins—when they were not even biological brothers. Due to an oversight that presumably occurred in the hospital nursery, one twin in each pair was switched with a twin in the other pair. The result was two sets of unrelated “fraternal” twins—Jorge and Carlos, who were raised in the lively city of Bogotà; and William and Wilber, who were raised in the remote rural village of La Paz, 150 miles away. Their parents and siblings were aware of the enormous physical and behavioral differences between the members of each set, but never doubted that
the two belonged in their biological families. Everyone’s life unraveled when one of the twins—William—was mistaken by a young woman for his real identical twin, Jorge. Her “discovery” led to the truth—that the alleged twins were not twins at all, but rather unrelated individuals who ended up with the wrong families. Blending great science and human interest, Accidental Brothers by Nancy L. Segal and Yesika S. Montoya will inform and entertain anyone interested in how twin studies illuminate the origins of human behavior, as well as mother-infant identification and the chance events that can have profound consequences on our lives.

**One and the Same - My Life As an Identical Twin and What I've Learned about Everyone's Struggle to Be Singular**

Journalist Abigail Pogrebin, a twin herself, offers a poignant and personal look at what it's really like to live with one's mirror image and tells the story of many twins who struggle to balance intimacy and individuality.

**Born Together—Reared Apart - The Landmark Minnesota Twin Study**

The Minnesota Study of Twins Reared Apart startled scientists by demonstrating that twins reared apart are as alike, across a number of personality traits and other measures, as those raised together, suggesting that genetic influence is pervasive. Segal offers an overview of the study’s scientific contributions and effect on public consciousness.

**S'Mother - The Story of a Man, His Mom, and the Thousands of Altogether Insane Letters She's Mailed Him**

And you think your mom is too involved? Meet the mother of all mothers in this “hilarious” memoir (North Shore News). Adam Chester is the son of a very loving mom, who for almost thirty years has peppered his life with unsolicited advice, news updates, and opinions in the form of thousands of inappropriate, embarrassing, and utterly crazy letters. Here, he presents a selection of her correspondence showing the pathological extremes maternal instincts can take. Why is a grown woman so frantic that her adult son screw on his windows to keep out killer bees? Is Adam at imminent risk of frostbite should he ever decide to visit San Francisco? And are adult trick-or-treaters really that much of a threat? With time, perspective, and plenty of therapy, Adam acknowledges and accepts the comedy of it all—and in this book he shares his story of an unforgettable mom who gives “overprotective” a whole new meaning.