

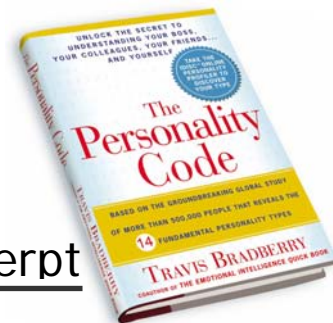
Separated at Birth

In late November 1958, newborn identical twin boys were delivered to an orphanage on the southernmost island of Japan. The boys' mother, unwed and abandoned by their father, had committed suicide upon their birth. She couldn't bear the intense shame placed on women who raised children alone. A few months later, the twins were discovered by a sergeant from the U.S. Air Force named Claude Patterson, who was stationed in Japan. Claude and his wife had high hopes of adopting a child they could bring back home to the United States. The Pattersons fell in love with both boys and requested to adopt the pair. To their dismay, the orphanage offered just one boy, with the explanation that the older brother was already spoken for. Forced with the choice of dividing the twins or looking elsewhere, the Pattersons chose to adopt the younger twin. They raised him in rural Kansas and gave him an American name, Tom. The older twin was also adopted by a couple from the United States, who raised him in New Jersey and named him Steve. For the next forty years, Tom and Steve lived separate lives, each unaware that his identical twin was just six states away.

Both boys learned growing up that they were one half of an identical pair, but neither family knew anything of the other twin's whereabouts. For most of their lives, the twins' attempts at locating each other were futile, as the orphanage in Japan was destroyed by a fire shortly after they left the country. Their paths finally crossed on the last day of June 1999. Earlier that year,

Steve discovered, through searchable adoption databases on the Internet, that his twin brother was adopted in 1958 by someone with the first name Claude and a last name of Patterson, Peterson, or Paulson. Steve emailed everyone in the adoption database who matched this description, with no luck. So he sent out hundreds of letters—one to every Claude Patterson, Peterson, and Paulson he could find an address for—seeking information on a twin adopted in southern Japan in 1958. One of these letters ended up in the hands of retired Air Force sergeant Claude Patterson, who was still living in rural Kansas, just a short drive from his son, Tom. When Claude read the handwritten letter, he could scarcely believe his eyes. Could this really be the same boy he was forced to leave behind in the orphanage more than forty years earlier? He had to find out. He drove straight to his son's house, and they called the number given in the letter. Less than a week later, Tom and Steve stood face-to-face in the middle of terminal D at the airport in Philadelphia.

When they approached each other for the first time that day, the two buff men in red sweatshirts paused silently for a moment to size each other up. Seeing their spitting image standing in front of them was almost too much for the hulking, identical figures to bear. "I literally could not believe he looked exactly like me," Steve recalls, "but when I did see him, I—I was in awe. I was just totally in awe about it. Even if you look at our teeth, I have a separation in the exact same place that he does. It's . . . it's just amazing how much he looks like me. It's like looking into a mirror."



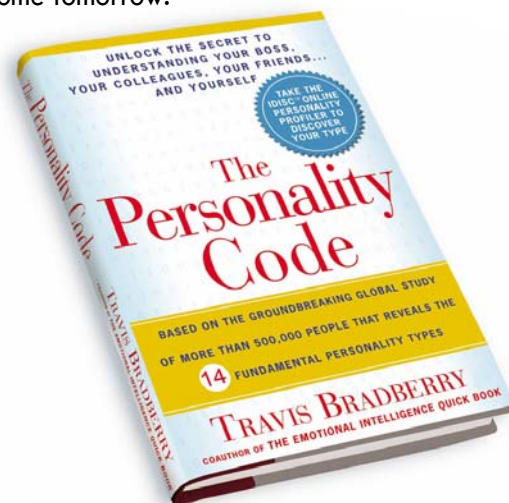
Tom and Steve in 2003

The twins spent the next four days together, trying desperately to catch up on forty years of separation. It didn't take long for them to discover they had far more in common than their looks. Both brought the same restless intensity to the conversation—head cocked to the left, a stiff upper body, and legs that bounced along attentively with each word spoken. Despite being raised in contrasting environments—Tom in a Christian household in small-town Kansas, and Steve as a Buddhist in a metropolitan borough of New Jersey—their lives had followed starkly similar paths. Both men had married Caucasian women, had two children, and had given their firstborn a Japanese name and their second child an American name. They found unusual similarities in everything from how fast they talk, to how they like to organize the sock drawer. These similarities are compelling, yet it's tempting to dismiss them as uncanny coincidences. It was when their discussion turned to careers that Tom and Steve knew there was something bigger at play. Like many other boys growing up, both were fanatical about sports. Though each was exposed to a myriad of athletics, bodybuilding so captured their interest that it led to an identical choice in profession—each owned and operated a gym in his hometown. But why did they choose to own a gym as their career? Both men

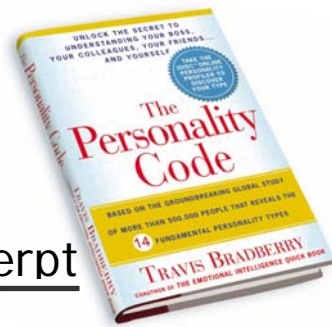
delighted in the virtue of keeping the body physically fit, and possessed the remarkable amount of discipline required to maintain a statuesque physique. More important, they were both drawn by the opportunity to help others do the same.

Life is filled with choices. There are an infinite number of junctures on the road that can lead two people—even genetically identical twins—on disparate paths. Tom and Steve didn't try to be the same; they weren't even raised in similar homes. So what was it that kept them headed in the same direction? The twins share an identical personality—the single enigmatic element of the mind that is so central to who we are that it led two men to get out of bed in the morning carrying the same motivations, pursue the same interests, choose the identical profession, and ultimately land in the same place in life.

The Personality Code is a book that explores the vital role of personality in who we are today and what we become tomorrow.



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Dr. Bradberry is the president of TalentSmart[®] and a recognized expert in emotional intelligence and personality who speaks regularly on these topics in corporate and public settings.

Dr. Bradberry is the coauthor of the best selling *Emotional Intelligence Quick Book*, as well as the *Preferred Leader Assessment*[™] with Ken Blanchard. His work has been featured by *Newsweek*, *The Harvard Business Review*, *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *Inc.*, *MSNBC*, *The Washington Post*, *Glamour*, *Health*, *Reader's Digest* and major television and radio outlets including ABC, CBS, NBC, NPR, and FOX.

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