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ELLEBEAUTYADVENTURE





The shape of a face tells you all you need to know about boyfriends and bosses (and yourself), says psychiatrist-morphologist Gerald Epstein. Holly Millea takes a look in the mirror and sees the mistakes of her past and who might be the man of her future

he cab I'd called to come pick me up at the small airport in Sioux City, Iowa, turned out to be an old station wagon with a magnetic taxi sign stuck to the side. Its driver was a large, attractive woman with a round face and reddish

curly hair that was too long for someone her age. She looked like a Beverly, or a Bev, but I didn't ask her name—I didn't want to get involved. It was a bitter November night, yet she was coatless, in short sleeves, radiating warmth.

I instructed her to go to the Best Western, and, as I expected, she wondered, "What brings you to Sioux City?"

I told Bev I was visiting my grandmother. I didn't tell Bev that two months earlier my grandmother had died and that I had returned to Iowa to close up her apartment.

"For Thanksgiving! On college break?"

"Oh, no!" Okay, I was flattered. "I graduated 20 years ago." She turned on the dome light and examined me in the rearview mirror, deducing, "Not married."

"Nope."

"Ever been married?"

"No."

"Tell me, what are you waiting for?"
Whatever happened to small talk? "I
have a question," I said. "How many
times have you been married?"

"Twice."

"There you have it! Okay. I never want to get divorced."

"My first husband died."

And that is why strangers should discuss only sports, Brangelina, and the dangers of too much sun exposure.

"But I could still divorce my second husband." She laughed—like *that* was going to happen—and reached up and turned off the light.

"One day I will get married," I promised, tracing a lopsided heart on the foggy window. "I will marry someone once and for all and forever."

"Honey," Bev said, not unkindly, "you better hurry up, because forever's almost over."

I tell this story to my friend Michael over lunch in New York. A decade ago we had a ton of flirry fun working together, and though we see each other only occasionally, we're close. "It's easy," he says. "You don't look married because you look like you don't want to be." Michael got the check. I got the reality check. As we hug goodbye, I ask him to tell me honestly. If he hadn't been married when we met, would he have asked me out?

"You're the girl I would have dated for years and suddenly dropped to marry someone else," he replies. "But I'd never have stopped thinking about you. Or the sex."

"Then why the hell wouldn't you just marry me?"

"You're...intense—but I love that about you!" Or as my playwright friend John once put it: "Holly, if you were a dog, you'd be a Jack Russell terrier." Clearly, I've been barking up the wrong trees. I've had maybe four serious relationships with men, two of whom ditched me—just as Michael imagined he would have—by marrying and promptly impregnating women who were my polar opposite. These men still call. I do not return their calls. Months pass, sometimes years, and out of the blue, another message: "Just thinking about you..." They should have





IMPETUOUS been this attached when we were together.

It occurs to me that the two hangerson looked alike, in varying measures crosses between Frank Sinatra and Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels.

Wanting to know if I can judge a lover by his cover, I head up to the Manhattan office of Gerald Epstein, MD, a psychiatrist and author of Healing Visualizations. He's also an expert in morphology—the science of face reading. Originating in the ancient Mediterranean and Egypt, morphology is the 5,000-year-old practice of using facial structure as an indicator of behavior, personality, and physiology traits. "The French have been the preservers of the morphology system in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries," Epstein says. While it's no longer legal to

use the practice as a hiring criterion in France, the Société Française de Morphopsychologie still encourages employers to use morphology as a way to make the most of their employees' nat-

ural strengths.

Morphologists believe that from birth, 95 percent of our disposition is a done deal, that our profiles reveal one of four temperaments, our faces one of 12 personalities. Epstein hands me a book illustrated with 12 shapes, each correlating with the name of a Greek/Roman god. He sees me as a rectangle, Aries/Mars. Among the indications: "gregarious, good-humored, fickle, short-tempered, penchant for war." Allow me to add, "loves make-up sex, can carry a tune."

"Men find moon-shape faces the most appealing—a circle of receptivity that conveys a yielding nature," Epstein says. I, on the other hand, "have a very angular face, the face of a warrior. The lines project assertiveness, thrust, and force." It's the facial structure Epstein says women find most appealing in men. Which is why I'm a chick magnet. Seriously.

I pull out pictures of old beaux and ask Epstein to tell me what he sees. "This one had a drug problem," he states correctly. "He's a Neptune—see the capsule face? [A long oval.] It's common for them to have addictions. It's not that they want to escape. They're very

creative and they're trying to capture a state they want to experience. They're also the least able to understand how to be connected in relationships." So true!

My next ex: "Look at the dimples. Immature. He wants what he wants when he wants it. His face is a trapezoid, Kronos/Saturn. Which means he's also perseverant and hypersexual." It was the best of times, it was the worst of times....

The last picture is of my true college love, a Kris Kristofferson

ringer circa A Star Is Born. We went off to separate cities but never lost touch. "Now this is a nice guy. A great guy," Epstein enthuses. "He's a reverse trapezoid, Zeus/Jupiter. Generous, tolerant, understanding..." Married, with small children...

"That's too bad," Epstein says. "But now you know what to look for in a face."

Walking over to a board, he sketches the four facial profiles that represent the four basic temperaments. There's Bilious: strong forehead, well-definedhin, à la Robert De Niro; Nervous: bullet-shape head, long nose, weaselly; Sanguine: jutting chin, jocklike (very Dick Tracy); and Lymphatic: flat forehead, weak chin, thick neck—think Alfred Hitchcock. I can see Epstein is a Lymphatic—"I am!"—and he declares me a Bilious which means "you're strong-willed and that will has to be met. When it isn't, you become morose and brooding.

You also glom knowledge with a 'needing to know' and have a hypercritical nature, finding flaws very easily. You're also feisty."

Anything else? "Bossy." How's that for a personal ad?

I'm not easy to live with, I tell Epstein. He chuckles. "You're not, but that doesn't preclude your getting married," he says. "You'd do well with a Lymphatic. They're receptive and accepting and won't stand in your way. They're also very devoted and visionary." But I want to be the visionary! Epstein shakes his head: "You can't be—that's not your calling.

Your calling is to conquer, be indefatigable, acquire knowledge,..." And to give my phone number to Lymphatics whose calling is to call me.

Feeling an impulse to delve deeper, I take a taxi down to the International Dermal Institute for a face mapping—an analysis that incorporates Chinese diagnostics. While I undergo a fancy facial, Heather Sing—the institute's Magellan of Mapping—explains how each area or "zone" correlates to specific organs of the body. The ears represent the kidneys. If they feel hot, it could mean you drink too much caffeine or have a high salt intake. Broken capillaries on the upper cheeks could indicate lung stress. A red, bulbous nose? Check your blood pressure. Pigmentation on the top lip can mean a hormone imbalance.

"There's a very strong line running straight across your forehead," Sing says. "How's your bladder?" Strange that she should ask. I have a bladder the size

of a cocktail olive. I'm constantly going to the bathroom.

"Both sides of your chin are broken out," Sing notes. "That's ovary related. You could be ovulating, or you could be entering perimenopause." (I vote that I'm laying an egg.) "And this vertical line between your eyebrows—that's your liver. We call that the 'wine-and-dine' line. Too much wine and cheese." I'd upped my daily cheese intake, hoping the calcium would strengthen my fingernails.



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of a warrior.

MOODY

Saturn/trapezoid: "Hypersexual; often sub ject to bone fractures."

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