

Hello, My Name Is...

The Remarkable Story of Personal Names

Neil Burdess

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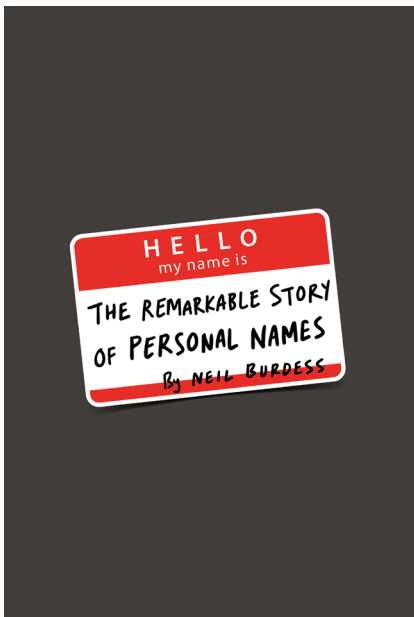
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ABOUT THIS BOOK

Using examples from Anglo-Saxon kings to today's celebrities, Hello, My Name Is... charts the history and importance of personal names— given names, surnames, titles, and professional names. Not long ago, one in two boys was named William, John or Thomas. Today, only one in twenty has one of the three most popular names as parents aim for something more distinctive. Tradition aside, the choice of surname is as open to parents as the choice of given name, while the titles we use have their own histories, such as how 'Mrs' once said nothing about a woman's age or marital status. Hello, My Name Is... also looks at professional names used by authors and actors.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author's given name, Neil, is one he shares with the first man on the moon. He would like to claim that he was named in honour of Neil Armstrong, because he would then be 20 years younger. The author's surname, Burdess, is not a typo. The much more familiar Burgess is a different name. There are less than 300 people with the surname Burdess in Britain, most living in northeast England, centred on the perhaps unfortunately named town of Crook, where the author was born.



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