



# The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay

*Carl H. Klaus*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay

Carl H. Klaus

## The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay Carl H. Klaus

The human presence that animates the personal essay is surely one of the most beguiling of literary phenomena, for it comes across in so familiar a voice that it's easy to believe we are listening to the author rather than a textual stand-in. But the "person" in a personal essay is always a written construct, a fabricated character, its confessions and reminiscences as rehearsed as those of any novelist. In this first book-length study of the personal essay, Carl Klaus unpacks this made-up self and the manifold ways in which a wide range of essayists and essays have brought it to life.

By reconceiving the most fundamental aspect of the personal essay—the I of the essayist—Klaus demonstrates that this seemingly uncontrived form of writing is inherently problematic, not willfully devious but bordering upon the world of fiction. He develops this key idea by explaining how structure, style, and voice determine the nature of a persona and our perception of it in the works of such essayists as Michel de Montaigne, Charles Lamb, E. B. White, and Virginia Woolf. Realizing that this persona is shaped by the force of culture and the impress of personal experience, he explores the effects of both upon the point of view, content, and voice of such essayists as George Orwell, Nancy Mairs, Richard Rodriguez, and Alice Walker. Throughout, in full command of the history of the essay, he calls up numerous passages in which essayists themselves acknowledge the element of impersonation in their work, drawing upon the perspectives of Joan Didion, Edward Hoagland, Joyce Carol Oates, Leslie Marmon Silko, Scott Russell Sanders, Annie Dillard, Vivian Gornick, Loren Eiseley, James Baldwin, and a host of other literary guides.

Finally, adding yet another layer to the made-up self, Klaus succumbs to his addiction to the personal essay by placing some of the different selves that various essayists have called forth in him within the essays that he has crafted so carefully for this book. Making his way from one essay to the next with a persona variously learned, whimsical, and poignant, he enacts the palimpsest of ways in which the made-up self comes to life in the work of a single essayist. Thus over the course of this highly original, beautifully structured study, the personal essay is revealed to be more complex than many readers have supposed. With its lively analyses and illuminating examples, *The Made-Up Self* will speak to anyone who wishes to understand—or to write—personal essays.

 [Download The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Es ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal ...pdf](#)



## **Download and Read Free Online The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay Carl H. Klaus**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Herbert Beckley:**

In this 21st century, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a guide your ability to survive increase then having chance to remain than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading any book, we give you that The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay book as starter and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

#### **Ashley Staley:**

The actual book The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay has a lot of information on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was authored by the very famous author. Tom makes some research just before write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can find the point easily after perusing this book.

#### **Terri Brown:**

As we know that book is important thing to add our information for everything. By a reserve we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a list of written, printed, illustrated or maybe blank sheet. Every year has been exactly added. This reserve The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay was filled about science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your scientific disciplines competence. Some people has different feel when they reading any book. If you know how big benefit of a book, you can sense enjoy to read a book. In the modern era like today, many ways to get book that you wanted.

#### **William Marsh:**

Do you like reading a reserve? Confuse to looking for your chosen book? Or your book seemed to be rare? Why so many query for the book? But almost any people feel that they enjoy intended for reading. Some people likes looking at, not only science book but additionally novel and The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay or perhaps others sources were given information for you. After you know how the good a book, you feel want to read more and more. Science book was created for teacher or maybe students especially. Those ebooks are helping them to add their knowledge. In other case, beside science reserve, any other book likes The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay to make your spare time more colorful. Many types of book like this one.

**Download and Read Online The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay Carl H. Klaus #0WST5A7JVQN**

## **Read The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay by Carl H. Klaus for online ebook**

The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay by Carl H. Klaus Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay by Carl H. Klaus books to read online.

### **Online The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay by Carl H. Klaus ebook PDF download**

**The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay by Carl H. Klaus Doc**

**The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay by Carl H. Klaus Mobipocket**

**The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay by Carl H. Klaus EPub**