



# Diagnosing Jefferson: Evidence of a Condition That Guided His Beliefs, Behavior, and Personal Associations

By Norm Ledgin

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Historians have long remarked on Thomas Jefferson's "peculiarities." But it took author Norm Ledgin, whose son has Asperger's Syndrome, to see what others did not. In this intriguing book, Ledgin carefully constructs a convincing case for the likelihood that Thomas Jefferson had Asperger's Syndrome. He matches Jefferson's behaviors with five diagnostic criteria for Asperger's: social impairment, preoccupation with "special interests," impairment in nonverbal communication, lack of emotional reciprocity, and inflexible adherence to nonfunctional routines. He also addresses other well-known signs of Asperger's, such as failure to recognize social cues, need for calming pressure, and indifference to peer pressure. A fascinating read!

Helpful chapters include:

- A Truth Not Self-Evident
- A Reluctant Celebrity
- A Logical Choice
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Review

**“This book is fantastic! Talent and intellectual giftedness is often associated with autism and Asperger’s syndrome. There is a continuum from normal to abnormal. A small amount of these traits can provide an advantage in being able to think objectively. Thomas Jefferson used these advantages when helping to create our system of government.”**

Dr. Temple Grandin

**“This work is important on three levels. It presents evidence to substantiate the hypothesis that Thomas Jefferson exhibited symptoms of Asperger’s Syndrome....To parents, educators and caregivers who deal with children with Asperger’s Syndrome the book offers hope, reliable information and invaluable experience-based guidance.”**

Dr. Richard P. McCormick, Professor Emeritus in History, Rutgers University

## **About the Author**

Temple Grandin earned her Ph.D. in animal science from the University of Illinois, went on to become an associate professor at Colorado State University, and wrote two books on autism, including the seminal ""Thinking in Pictures." One of the most celebrated -- and effective -- animal advocates on the planet, Grandin revolutionized animal movement systems and spearheaded reform of the quality of life for the world's agricultural animals.

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