

"Tiger, Tiger, burning bright," sang the poet—and well might his subject have been Marlene Dietrich! Benton tells you why. Read his intimate analysis.



DIETRICH— The Lady and the Tigress!

By
William E. Benton

Tawny hair, slanting eyes, smooth, feline grace—she's the Blonde Tigress! Get this new and revealing angle on Marlene from Character Analyst Benton and compare it with your own qualities

YOU have noticed that all unusual personalities resemble or suggest some bird or animal—yes, sometimes there are even those who suggest certain fish. For instance, Von Hindenburg has been compared to a great bulldog; certainly he has been a dog of war for Germany. Friedrich Nietzsche, the great German philosopher, wrote of “the superman” and likened him to a great blond beast.

The Royal Bengal Tiger has been worshipped even more than it was feared all through India for countless centuries. The whole “cat” tribe, even tabby, the house cat, was worshipped and had temples built to her glory all along the Nile. The Egyptians saw something marvelous in her “nine lives” or tenacity to this life, coupled with her fecundity and wonderful care of her young.

The heroes and heroines of the motion picture world can but expect to be likened to the creatures they suggest, if that has been the fate of the world's best-known personalities down the corridors of time.

Marlene Dietrich may not believe in the transmigration of souls or that she was ever a Royal Bengal Tigress. But I can see much of the likeness to that royal animal in her face today. Her mass of tawny gold hair, and greenish blue eyes tipped up at the outer corners, are most feline in appearance. There is something in her smooth controlled movements suggestive of quiet, cool efficiency.

You have never seen her in a position that she did not seem as graceful as a tigress, be it in repose or quick but quiet action.

Think of all the people you know with the almond-shaped eyes of Dietrich—do you know of any who are dull and stupid with such eyes? You do not. The chances are that, those who come to mind with such eyes are clever, alert, controlled, and can do a great deal with the least apparent effort.

You might do worse than take a look into the mirror at the windows of your own soul. If your eyes are as widespread as Marlene Dietrich's—that is, so wide between the eyes that there would be room for an eye and a third, put yourself down for a most unusual person, for the great majority of the world's population have just the space of the width of an eye between the eyes or a fraction less. She is literally and figuratively broad-minded, but very level-headed and balanced about it.

“Cats,” you know, have a marvelous sense of taste, touch and balance. No matter (Continued on page 79)

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Send these indexes of your character with 25c and stamped self-addressed envelope to William E. Benton, SCREENLAND Magazine, 45 West 45th St., New York City, and you will receive a comparative analysis of yourself that will entertain as well as help you.



Notice the width between Dietrich's tip-tilted eyes; the wide-winged nose; the easy, cat-like grace of posture. These things, to the trained observer, suggest an affinity with the royal creature of the jungle. Does your face show any of these attributes?



Marlene Dietrich in a tender scene with Dickie Moore in "The Blonde Venus." Here the most attractive feline characteristics are brought out in the lovely star's acting—the graceful posture, the cuddling, purring movement, the love of things domestic.

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how they are mauled or manhandled they always land on their feet. If you, too, have this width between the eyes and a head as wide at the temples as Marlene Dietrich's, you too will have this sense of balance, rhythm and harmony.

Did you ever note in the pictures and busts of great musicians this tendency to breadth to the head? Had Dietrich chosen music, especially musical composition as a career, she might have had equal or greater fame and fortune than she has won as an actress.

Now I suppose you wonder what connection there can be between the cat tribe and music. Well, cats may not be far enough evolved to sing, but they are the world's best and most earnest midnight serenaders! Charles Darwin, the father of the theory of Evolution, could show us most interesting things about the aeon-long efforts creatures make to do the thing that they eventually master. Dogs bark, lions roar, for all the world to hear and know their feelings. Cats and tigers use their vocal ability to show their personal feelings toward one another.

Some people, like dogs, make a great show of their loves, hates, fears; their barking shows their momentary feelings. The whole cat family can wait quietly, patiently, until the proper moment; then, achieving the object of their stalk, one may hear nothing more than a most contented purr. Rub a cat's fur the right way and you can hear her try to sing a song of happiness; do the reverse and she has quite efficient ways of showing her displeasure. They say dogs worship men, but cats do not; certainly the Royal Bengal Tiger seems to reserve all feelings of love for the mate.

Marlene Dietrich is a harmonious though somewhat inscrutable personality who would have made an ideal Priestess in the Temples of the Cat Goddess of the Nile.

In this mechanistic, bombastic age of noise, confusion, haste, one with her feline personality awakens a response in the breast of millions because of the subconscious feelings of harmony, softness, and a perfect adaptation to place and time.

To best understand personalities sometimes it is best to compare them with their direct opposites. Let us consider persons with the round eye and bland stare of a gazelle or deer—they are often guileless, staring in open-eyed wonder at a world full of things they cannot master or understand.

Try this interesting experiment: open your eyes as wide as you can, if you are all alone; go before the mirror and let your mouth drop open, too; then, while holding this admittedly stupid expression, try to think, plan, decide, and you'll find the minute you are doing so your expression has slipped or changed to a more cunning or cat-like one.

Perhaps you think I am a cat lover or a Dietrich "fan," but I am neither. As a character analyst I find this study of animal traits and physical comparison to people is extremely useful. It's fun for anyone interested in personality and it's unconscious or conscious betrayal in words and actions.

Dogs have evolved from the ancient wolf ancestor into man's best friend and protector. Methinks tabby, though, was in the house and by the hearth long before her shaggy enemy was allowed past the kitchen door. For she has the most cunning and ingratiating personality.

How did the cat ingratiate herself into



Girls demand Gregory La Cava—or so it seems! Surrounding the fortunate director are: (top row) Geraine Greer, Betty Grable, Pat Farr, Louise Pierce and Mary Mason; (second row) Alice West, Phyllis Fraser, Jerry Hitchcock and Louise Moore; (at bottom) Linda Parker and Marion Weldon.

the hearts of men? By a thousand graceful feminine wiles. Watch a cat who has decided to adopt your hearth and home. Graceful posing, pretty purring, and an uncanny capacity to appear and disappear at the most opportune times!

Marlene Dietrich suggests the beautiful blonde Royal Tigress, not the ruthless hater of mankind. Don't forget the man-stalking tiger is the outcast like the rogue elephant.

Marlene Dietrich has a splendid, somewhat pointed chin, so she has the courage to fight for what she believes to be right for herself and loved ones. If you have a chin like this, you too have the courage to pioneer.

The live, tawny hair tells a story of a somewhat happy-go-lucky independent inner nature. There is an institute, in fact, there are many of them in Germany, where if you sent one hair of your head they would put it under a most powerful microscope and tell your racial type, about your health, probable occupation, and a world of interesting and most intimate things about your personality.

Your nose tells more about you than any feature, however, and shows the most constant impressions or desires of your nature. If yours is wide-winged and somewhat

retroussé, like our subject's, you too will be one of strong but controlled emotions. Some of the world's greatest coquettes have such noses.

If you have ever watched a pussy cat rub up against someone whose favorable attention she wanted you were amazed at tabby's ability to gain favor tactfully. There are a great many things to be learned from every feature of every creature. You never saw graceful swimming water fowl without webbed feet.

Human Engineering is a most fascinating study and if Marlene Dietrich's parents had taken her to a character analyst as a little child the potential, musical and dramatic traits of great promise would have revealed themselves most surely.

Marlene Dietrich is only one of the earth's millions of interesting personalities. You may be her opposite in everything, yet achieve a life as interesting through knowing and being yourself just as she has. You may have an inferiority complex or the reverse, but in either case it should be understood and harnessed for your success and happiness here and now. You could do far worse than get the truth about yourself if only on suspicion that you too have the potentialities of a great personality.