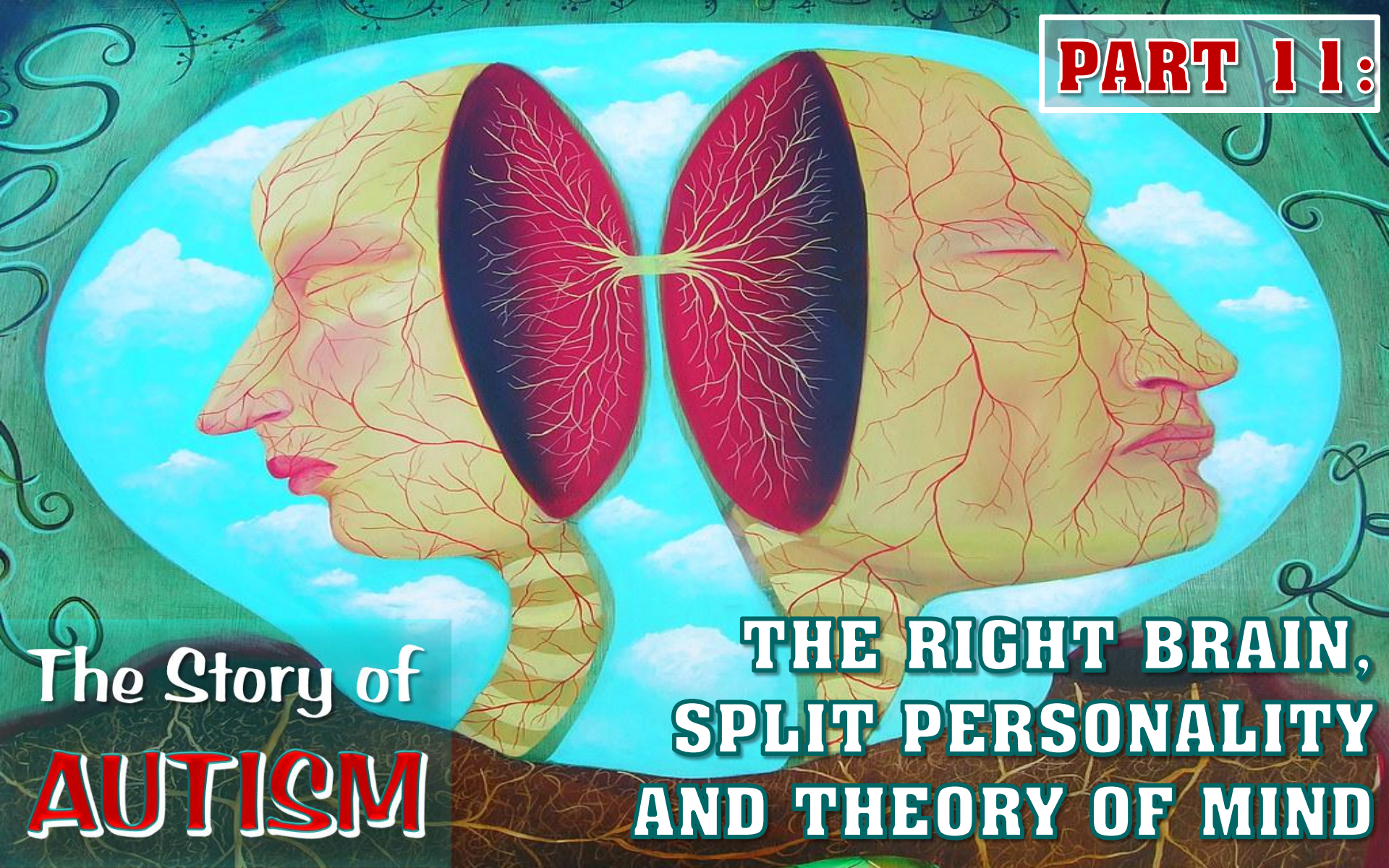


**PART 1:**

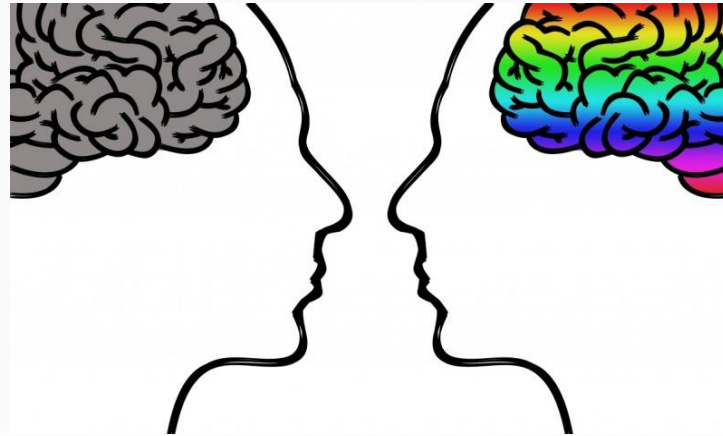


The Story of  
**AUTISM**

**THE RIGHT BRAIN,  
SPLIT PERSONALITY  
AND THEORY OF MIND**

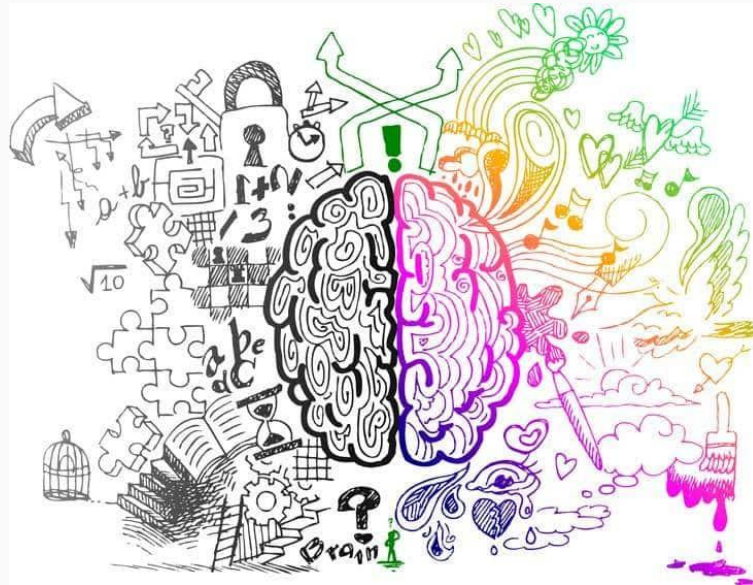
# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

Functional MRI tests have shown that **the right brain hemisphere is heavily involved in the processing of others' emotions, intentions and beliefs** – and there is no reason to believe that it is not doing this in autistic brains as well.



# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

But, if these emotions, intentions and beliefs are not being combined either with logical thought or verbal expression, it is difficult to know that they are there.



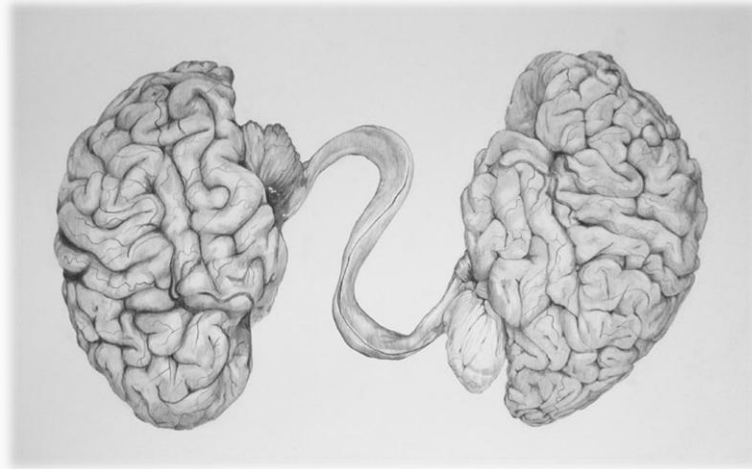
# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

We **assume** that individuals with autism lack empathy or feelings of emotion, but the problem may simply be that they just can't connect what they feel to a suitable means of expression.



# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

If the corpus callosum in autism is dysfunctional and the two sides of the brain are functioning more or less independently, then there would be little or no sharing of information back and forth.



# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

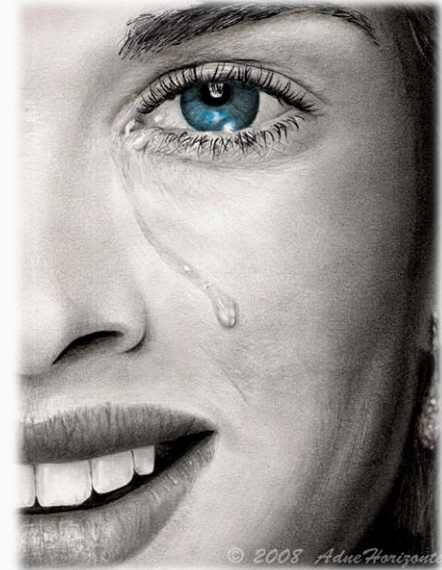
A person with autism might feel very sad or sorry about something with their right brain, and yet laugh out loud because their left brain is on an entirely different tract. We talked about this **disconnection syndrome** in the split brain presentation.



# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

Before we came to the realization that **she had no control over them, our daughter's inappropriate reactions** often baffled and annoyed us.

When we'd try to have a serious talk with her over something she did that she shouldn't have done, she would smile or giggle while saying "I'm sorry."



# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

**Her affect didn't match with her words.**

Now I understand that this is her split brain at work. Her right brain feelings and expression are disconnected from her left brain logic and verbal expression.





# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

The most telling example of Meaghan's split brain occurred recently. Her favorite uncle passed away suddenly of a heart attack. Not a day went by that Meg didn't ask for her "Uncle Paul." She adored him, and we weren't sure what to expect when we broke the news of his death to her.



# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

Meg's LEFT BRAIN verbal response after we told her the sad news was to repeat "Go see Uncle Paul" over and over.

She then asked to "type."  
She sat down, opened her iPad and her RIGHT BRAIN wrote the following:



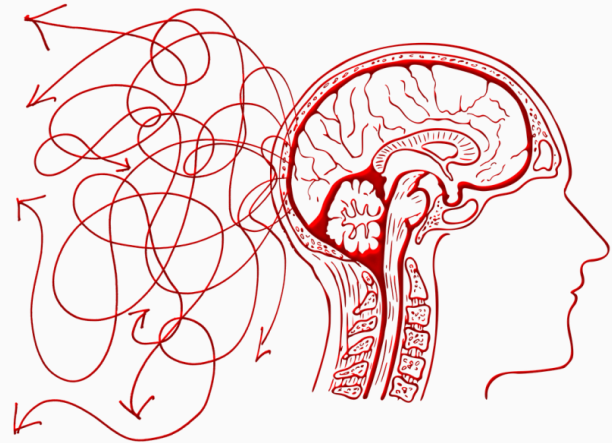
# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

I am devastated. I loved uncle paul so much. He was a wonderful person. He had such an enormous heart, which is why it probably broke down. It couldn't contain all the emotions he felt. He genuinely loved his life and everyone in it. Only dad ponders why this happened, but I know it was because paul was a saint on earth. He could only be with us a short time. The feeling of sadness we dwell on is not what paul would have wanted. He would have wanted us to very much take his death as a sign that we need to appreciate every moment of our lives as much as he did.

# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

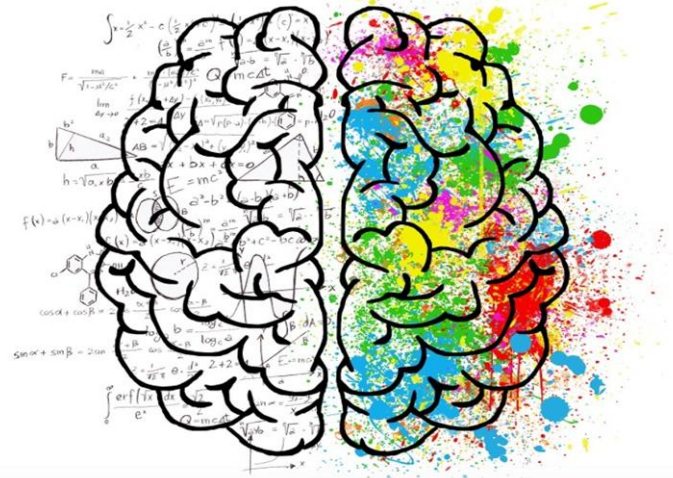
No one is too special to have a life without end. But if anyone deserved one, it was my uncle paul. I think heaven just got very lucky.

I have included the full text for a reason – because it shows that Meaghan is fully capable of emotion, insight, mature understanding AND theory of mind.



# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

Of course, the prevailing thought is that people with autism lack a theory of mind. But it's difficult to have a fully developed awareness of other people's motives and intentions if your brain is not hardwired to send data efficiently back and forth between the analytical left side and intuitive right side.



# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

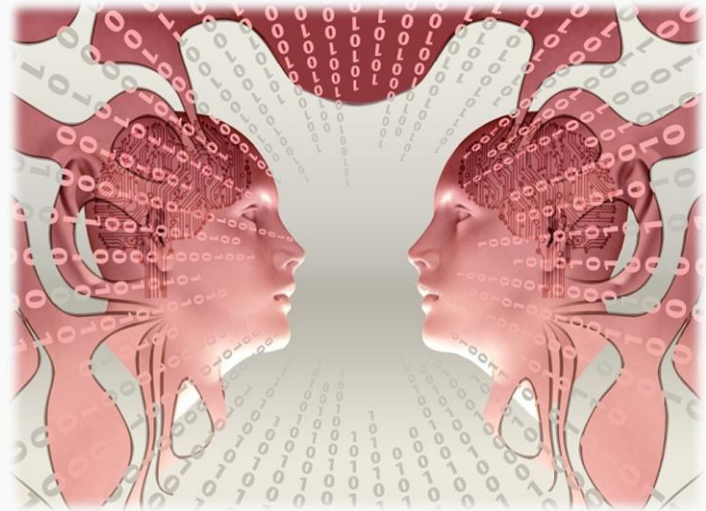
As for the experiments that have been done to prove the absence of "theory of mind," the ones that I am aware of relied on LEFT BRAIN logic and verbal responses.

They did not take into account the fact that intuitive and perceptive RIGHT BRAIN input would be missing from an autistic child's response UNLESS they could write their answers as well as speak them.

# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

Five years ago I might have agreed with the studies. Now I know for a fact that they are wrong for at least a segment of the vast autistic population, a segment that includes my daughter.

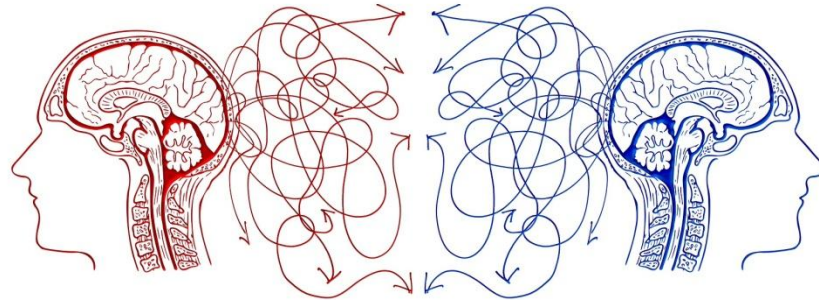
**She really is two different people.**



# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

**Her right brain personality** is intelligent, perceptive, insightful, witty, quirky and emotionally honest.

**Her left brain personality** is more autistic – rote, repetitive and detail oriented.



Look at the brain lateralization diagram below.

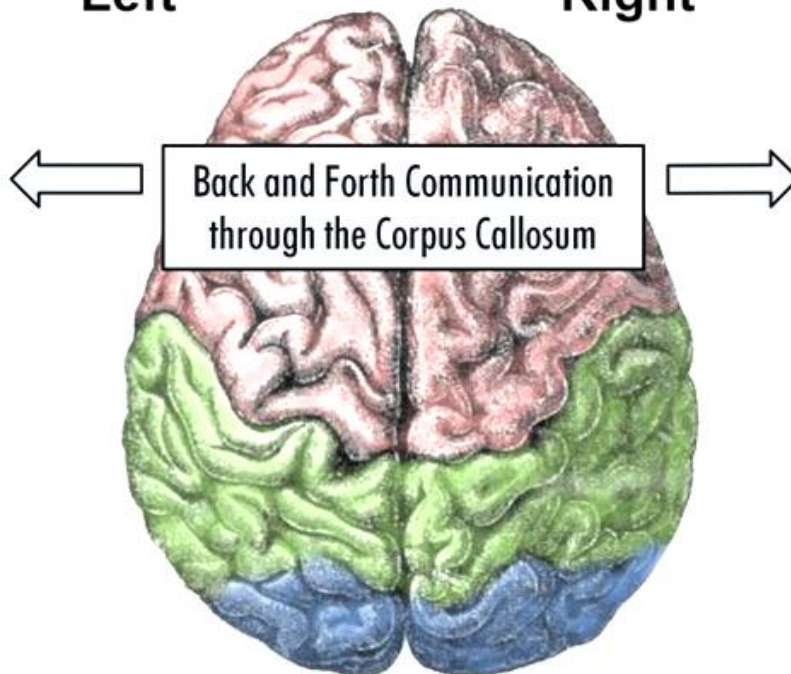


# Neurotypical Brain

## Brain Lateralization

Left

Right



- Analytical thought
- Detail Oriented Perception
- Ordered Sequencing
- Rational Thought
- Verbal
- Cautious
- Planning
- Math/Science
- Logic
- Right Field Vision
- Right Side Motor Skills

- Intuitive Thought,
- Holistic perception
- Random Sequencing
- Emotional Thought
- Non-verbal
- Adventurous
- Impulse
- Creative Writing/Art
- Imagination
- Left Field Vision
- Left Side Motor Skills

# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

For almost 30 years we only knew the LEFT brain Meaghan. We almost missed out on the whole, amazing person that she really is. And but for a fluke – an outside OT trying something different – Meaghan would have lived the rest of her life without being able to express who she really was.



# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

So we look at someone with autism and we see right away that they have problems with social interaction, and they either cannot speak or they speak oddly.

And what do we conclude?



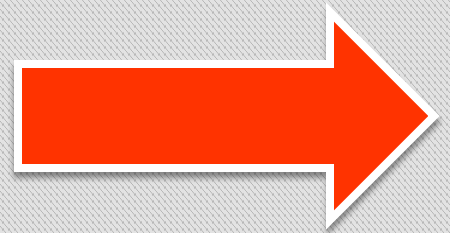
# THE STORY OF AUTISM: Right Brain, Split Personality

**All too often the wrong thing.**

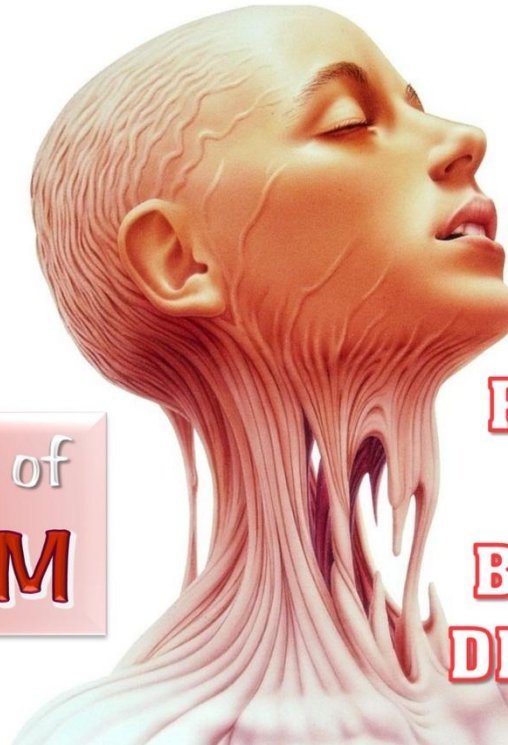
**Because, with autism, appearances REALLY are deceiving.** What you see definitely isn't what you get if you take the time and have the patience to probe beneath the surface.



GO ON TO THE NEXT PRESENTATION



The Story of  
**AUTISM**



**PART 12:**

**REFLEX  
RETENTION  
LEADS TO  
BRAIN BODY  
DISCONNECT**