



GENERAL AXIS II CHARACTERISTICS

OVERALL CHARACTERISTICS:

1. pervasive pattern of *instability* of self-image, interpersonal relationships, and mood (inability to have authentic relationships, often referred to as “relationship destroyers”)
2. a marked, persistent *disturbance of identity* (or sense of self), which is frequently manifested by uncertainty about more than one important personal issue (e.g., self-image, sexual orientation, values, career), failure to develop an integrated self-concept
3. *void of insight* into the essentially maladaptive nature and effects of his symptomatic behavior
4. *lack of impulse control*(invasive, relentless)
5. interpersonal relationships that are usually unstable and intense, chaotic, quickly pseudo-intimate (often seductive), and characterized by *extremes of idealization or devaluation*
6. concerns, sometimes subtle but often blatant, about real or imagined *abandonment*
7. an almost constant state of *emotion* perceived by others as quantitatively (range and intensity) or qualitatively inappropriate (e.g., appearing fearful, jealous, angry, suicidal)
8. marked *unpredictable and exaggerated mood swings*, usually depression, irritability, anxiety, or anger
9. often undermining of one’s own success
10. *lack of empathy*
11. *distorted cognition* (i.e., ways of perceiving and interpreting self, other people, and events) such that others feel themselves to be crazy or wrong

The most popular non-academic books about Borderlines are
I Hate You, Please Don't Leave Me and *Walking on Eggshells*