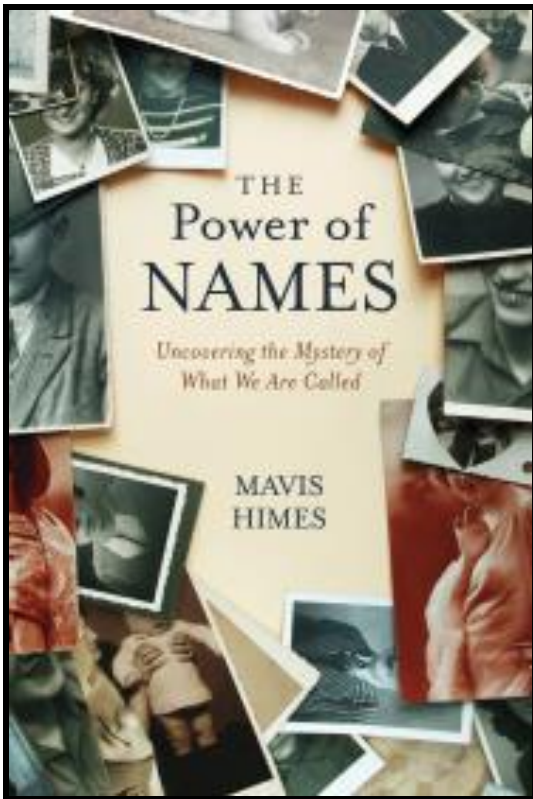


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### About the Book

Our proper name is as much a part of us as our own skin. It travels with us like a passport, testifying to our unique presence on this earth. The articulation of our name rolls off our tongue with ease and familiarity, yet we rarely turn and examine the part our name plays in what makes us who we are. Our first name reflects the hopes and dreams of our parents and family, our culture, and our own sense of self, while our surname carries our ancestral history, a branding of both affiliation and transmission.

In *The Power of Names*, Mavis Himes explores both the profound ambivalence that many of us feel toward our names and the conscious and unconscious impact our names have on our lives, sometimes for good and sometimes for ill. She explores such questions as: What do our names mean? How do they influence our destiny? What does it mean to lose or change our name - and what does this reveal or conceal about who we are?

### About the Author

**Mavis Himes**, PhD, is a psychoanalyst and clinical psychologist in Toronto where she maintains a full-time private practice. She is also clinical consultant at Wellspring, a cancer centre for patients and their families. Himes is director of Speaking of Lacan Psychoanalytic Group, a Toronto-based forum dedicated to the study of Lacanian psychoanalysis. Her previous book *The Sacred Body: A Therapist's Journey*, is about her work with cancer patients; as well, she frequently contributes to professional journals and books about psychoanalysis.

### Praise for the Book

Mavis Himes' book is an astonishing exploit. She successfully combines two clearly separate genres, autobiography and essay, making both of them enrich each other. Maybe her secret lies in her dedication to psychoanalytic clinic and discourse. The classical questions of the proper name are dealt from the outside with philosophy and from the inside, the result of a fruitful personal life. Thus, she leads the reader to question him/herself about the power and the influence of the names of all the acquaintances in their lives.

— Néstor A. Braunstein, MD, psychoanalyst,  
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