



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung Female Pioneers of Research

Pt. 46

Marilyn Vos Savant



BESSEr@KIT





Marilyn Vos Savant (*1948)
Author & Columnist

Far above-average results in IQ tests (ranging from 167 to 228 depending on the test), which she achieved already in her youth, earned her a long-standing entry in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the 'person with the highest intelligence quotient'.

Nevertheless, she received little appreciation during her school years.

Teachers considered her intelligence 'useless' because she was a girl.



She dropped out of her philosophy studies to work in the family business, organizing a cleaning chain.

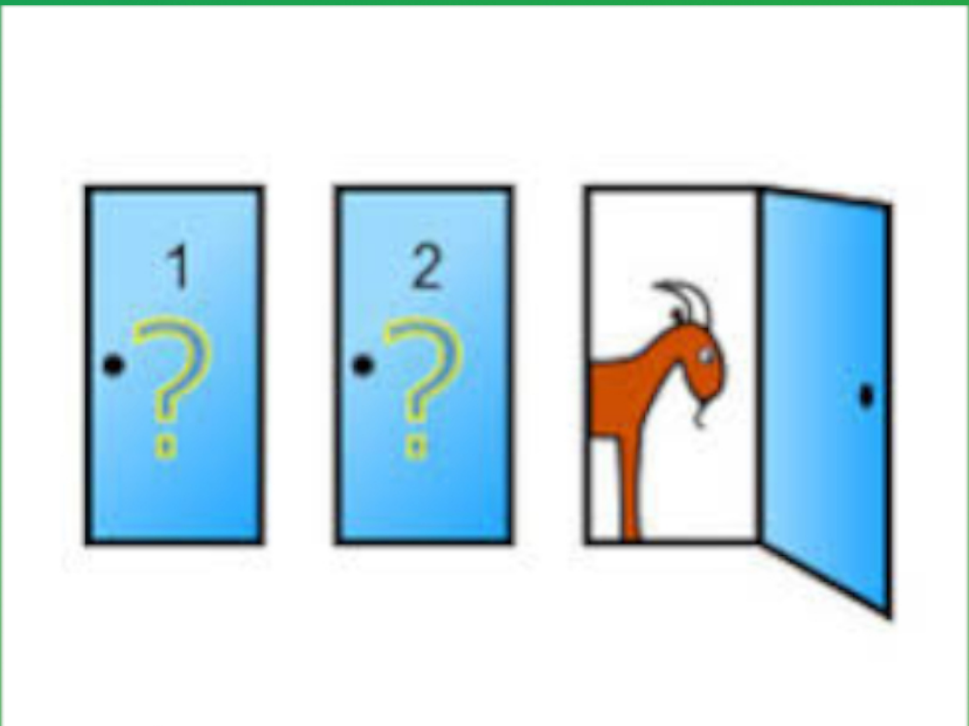
She served as CFO of *Jarvik Heart Inc.* and was involved in organizations such as the *National Council on Economic Education* and the *National Women's History Museum*.

Starting in 1986, she wrote the column 'Ask Marilyn' for *Parade magazine*, in which she answered readers' questions.

Her solution to the 'Monty Hall problem' attracted particular attention.



The 'Monty-Hall-Problem' is a probability puzzle that was solved by Vos Savant, with a detailed explanation both in her column and in further publications.





This statement alone, despite her detailed explanation, brought her massive hostility and doubts about her intelligence, e.g.

'Perhaps women view mathematical problems differently than men.'

She explained her solution calmly in several follow-up columns.

Her reasoning was later confirmed through simulations and mathematical proofs.

Many critics publicly apologized.





"Was Frauen wollen, ist das, was
Männer wollen.
Sie wollen Respekt."

„What women want is what men
want. They want respect.“

