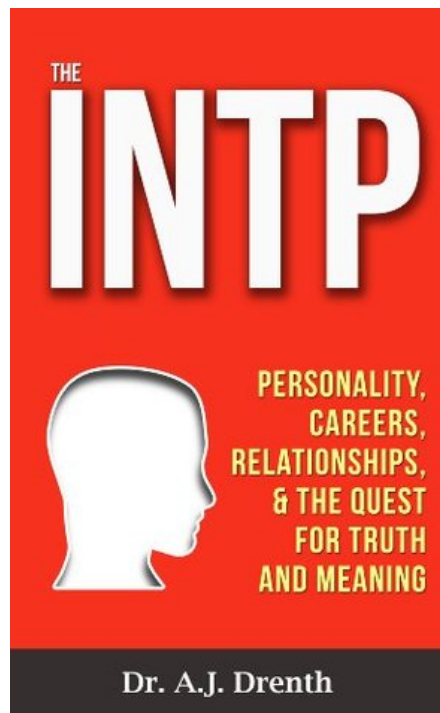




The INTP: Personality, Careers, Relationships, & the Quest for Truth and Meaning

A.J. Drenth

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INTPs love to think and philosophize. They see themselves as questing for truth and meaning. Not only do they seek to know the truth about reality, but to cultivate an abundant and meaningful life. Unfortunately, getting a firm hold on truth and meaning often proves trickier than they anticipate.

Complicating matters further is INTPs' concern for finding and securing their rightful place in the world. This typically involves searching for two things: the right career and the right relationship. Because INTPs envision their optimal career as encapsulating, or at least incorporating, their quest for truth and meaning, it too can prove slippery and elusive.

While often taking a back seat to the INTP's work, relationships can be another point of frustration and difficulty for this type. At times, being such independent souls, INTPs may even consider whether a romantic partner is integral to their quest for happiness.

The primary purpose of this book is to help INTPs better understand themselves through the lens of personality typology. This, in turn, can aid and abet their quest for truth, meaning, and purpose. This book also strives to help INTPs develop a clearer sense of direction, as well as increased satisfaction, in their careers and relationships.

Chapter 1 contains a general overview, as well as a function-by-function analysis, of the INTP personality type, including a look at the tug-of-war between the INTP's dominant (Ti) and inferior (Fe) function.

Chapter 2 examines INTPs' typical course of growth and development across the lifespan.

Chapter 3 explores the "negative potentials" of the INTP personality type. This includes a careful look at the INTP's "dark side," as well as the degree to which INTPs are prone to various psychological problems such as depression, ADD, autism/Asperger's, narcissism, etc.

Chapter 4 tackles one of the INTP's most poignant and recurrent concerns—their quest for truth and meaning.

Chapter 5 examines INTPs' political, religious, and philosophical propensities. This includes analyses of the relative contributions of each of the INTP's four functions to the ways in which they see and understand the world.

Chapter 6 dives deeply into some of INTPs' most pressing career concerns. This includes addressing issues such as the degree to which they should focus on the intrinsic versus extrinsic value of their work, the pluses and minuses of working independently, the potential merits of a day job, creative versus analytical careers, etc. This chapter also enumerates the INTP's most common career strengths and interest areas, drawing on the six "RIASEC" interest themes developed by John Holland. Furthermore, it examines the relative merits of specific careers and majors—the hard sciences, social/moral sciences, computers/IT, freelancing, scholarship, medicine, psychology, etc.—in light of the INTP's personality, skills, values, and interests.

Chapter 7 explores the ways INTPs think and function with respect to relationships, including their

unconscious motivations. It also discusses relationships as a forum for learning and experimentation, the danger of concealing negative thoughts and assumptions, INTP communication issues, Ti-Fe identity issues, and INTP attitudes toward family and parenting.

Chapter 8 might be viewed as an extension of Chapter 7. It explores, on a type-by-type basis, how INTPs may fare when paired with various personality types.

Chapter 9 compares and contrasts INTPs with related personality types—INTJs, ENTPs, ISTPs, and INFPs.

The INTP: Personality, Careers, Relationships, & the Quest for Truth and Meaning Details

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Truth and Meaning A.J. Drenth**

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Sherise says

Going into reading this book, I totally thought I was an INTP...and I definitely resonated with a lot of the characteristics discussed in this book. However, the last chapter, discussing common types INTP's mistake themselves for, made me wonder if I may need to take a second look at my type.

Other than that, Drenth does a masterful job of making complex personality theory very digestible by the layman. I did find his perspective to be a little more "you can't change who you are" than I'd like - the development of character can mitigate a lot of inherent weakness in all personality types - but I believe that stems from Drenth having a different worldview than my own.

Cyn Bagley says

I have been misclassified as ISTP and INTJ. When I read those personality types I couldn't see myself in them. Finally in college when I was getting my Master's degree, I had the most accurate test yet. I was classified as INTP. Now over a decade later I have a book that tells me what it means. Plus it was like Dr. Drenth was reading my mind. It was the first time I thought that the Meyer's Briggs test was something more than a load of hooey.

Good read and the section on an inferior feeling (Fe) gave me insight to many problems I do have in emotional areas.

Stephen says

This is by far the most accurate and most helpful resource for the INTP personality type that I have ever encountered. It discusses all of the most meaningful topics for an INTP, and answers a lot of questions with sound arguments. I can relate so much to what is in here regarding careers, relationships, social interaction, life in general. It also addressed the development issues that INTPs find challenging, and some flaws that INTPs may not want to admit to. And it does so from the voice of someone who really understands that type, so all the criticisms are welcome.

I blazed through this book, since I found the insights so spot on and helpful. I found myself highlighting such large chunks of text so frequently that I've decided that this will be simply have to be a book that I come back to throughout my life as I learn and grow. One of the most beneficial sections for me discusses the differences in Phase II and Phase III of an INTP's development. I'm currently in Phase II, and believe the insights and advice will help me transition into Phase III in a healthier way.

I wish there was a resource like this for all personality types: someone of the same type who has been through the development stages and more importantly has actually studied his or her own development in addition to others of the same type. This is precisely the kind of wisdom we could all use to navigate life. Unlike other self help resources, this is near 100% applicable to me because it is type-specific, catered to the essence of who I am.

I encourage any INTP of any age, or anyone interested in understanding the INTP, to consider this book a valuable resource.

Wasio Abbasi says

I have followed Personality Junkie website for a couple of years and reading this book has given me a whole new perspective. As an INTP there are plenty of questions in my mind, majority of which made more sense after reading this book.

From the inner restlessness to careers and relations, this book covers all the important aspects of INTPs life and how they deal with them. It doesn't treat everything in black and white, rather provide facts and some opinions (especially in Relationship section) that help in understanding thought process better.

All in all an excellent read for an INTP or someone who wants to understand INTPs better.

Hrishika Shetty says

I felt that the book eerily described me. I also liked the fact that the author suggested guidelines rather than clear cut solutions in order to overcome common INTP challenges. I mean, what would an INTP do with easy answers after all..haha. More than half the fun lies in the journey! I must say though that I did benefit from a lot of things mentioned in the book. A lot of the advice or insights helped explain behaviours that I have often found difficult to explain to myself. They will also thankfully serve as future guideposts when I might have to navigate difficult situations in areas of life such as careers, relationships etc. I would suggest this book to anyone who is an INTP and wants to understand oneself better - like most INTP's do.

John says

Essential instruction manual for INTPs, the rest of you can move along ...

In typical INTP fashion, I've always found MBTI personality types interesting, but a bit unconvincing. I have equivocated over which type best describes me, objected to the dryness of the top-level INTP description ("objective analyst"), and generally found the whole thing to be a bit superficial and pseudo-science-y.

All the above is exactly what you'd expect from an INTP ... and I have to admit, this book has me banged to rights.

This is annoying because us INTPs (and our fellow INFPs) resist being typed at all. We are the most independent of the types, the most unconventional, and a type full of contradictions. As much as we love ambiguity and creativity, we're desperate to sort it all out and find the underlying theory and then explain it to people. As much as we crave independence and autonomy, we also have an annoying need for affirmation and acceptance from other people. As much as we love people (at least in theory), they exhaust the crap out of us and we itch to get alone so we can think about stuff!

This book explains the lot - the first time I've seen such an in depth, coherent, and convincing explanation, and I'm a qualified MBTI practitioner!

Annie says

This is super effin creepy. I expect many nuances because typology tends to be generalization but damn, this book describes me to a T! I gotta share this book with some people who are baffled by how I think.

Charity says

Short read, but gives a lot of insight into the INTP personality type and how our inferior functions wreak havoc in our life. I could identify with a lot of it (all but the secret romanticism, yet I suspect if I'm honest with myself, that's true too) -- so much so that I underlined about a zillion passages. A smart, sincere read that highlights the pros and cons of the type.

Sumit Ghosh says

When I first encountered MBTI, I was very excited to find a *type* to relate to, as I've always felt that I am different—not in a egoistic way—than others. This led me to a rabbit hole of online articles and discussion threads on *forums*, but as it is usual with INTPs, I became kind of bored with it. Especially because they all started to sound simtilar to me, and rather stereotypical. Also, as I started exploring and experiencing existential and philosophical questions in my own life, I was starting to believe that I am very different from a typical INTP. MBTI can not really pin down someone's personality at a comprehensive level.

That's when I read this book.

This book doesn't linger on the stereotypical description of the INTP. Instead, it quickly takes a deep dive into what our ambition in life is, how we're in a constant struggle to find meaning // truth in our work, and so on. Even the political, philosophical and spiritual tendencies of the INTP is laid out in this book, something which I didn't think can be attributed to typology, but it seems like I was wrong! I could entirely relate to everything the author had to say about INTP types.

The book helped me understand that these struggles that I've been having, aren't really non-INTPish, rather they are as INTPish as it could get. I gained a lot of perspective which I contemplated before, but couldn't be sure about. Especially about how should I approach my career.

Overall, I must say this book is a must read for all INTPs, especially the ones in the "*phase II of their growth*", i.e. young adulthood to thirties.

Manuel says

I really enjoyed this little book about the INTP personality type. I would say I fit 90% of what the author described were the strengths and weaknesses of the "Architects". It was like I was reading my autobiography! It's worthy of a second reading.

Cristian Baltoc says

Relationship dynamics are always more complicated than a book can contain but this is a must-read for anyone who is an INTP or who is in a relationship with one. Establishing the basis of how INTPs think and interpret, their (very important to them) needs and wants beforehand can avoid a lot of unpleasant and tense situations in relationships. A lot of people put little faith in the Myers Briggs typologies but, so far, I can definitely identify with a lot of the mental processes in my specific type. Categories of personalities definitely exist, with bigger or smaller percentages in the different functions assigned in this particular system and it helps to have at least a general idea of what to expect.

INTPs are not easy to be with and their behaviors might appear confusing and contradictory to other personality types but it all makes sense inside the INTP's head, sometimes on an unconscious level. It's good to know why these behaviors occur so as to not misinterpret and mislabel them for something they're not. An INTP aspires to a higher purpose (reaching it is a different matter) and their search for knowledge in areas that interest them is a crucial part of one's existence. This happens in detriment of earthly things such as household chores, environmental cleanliness, fashion, small talk and, most problematic of all, feelings. Feelings are something INTPs have huge issues with and they navigate inside their brains in a peculiar way, often times exhibiting behaviors inappropriate for what the situations call for. Logic is the dominant trait and an INTP will prefer it over emotion, a lot of times setting aside emotions altogether in favor of a logical debate even with a loved one over very personal and typically emotional matters. This is a problem for non-INTPs as they can't understand how a person can be so "cold" and detached from such a personal matter. This is where the main difference occurs between INTPs and non-such personalities. We can take the role of an objective bystander in matters that are deeply personal, but this leads to a deeper connection in the end and a non-INTP needs to know how this happens and the expected outcome.

In the end, the book is a very valuable resource for anyone who is involved with an INTP-type personality and it can be used as a tool to cement any relationship and often completely avoid pitfalls.

William says

The high rating is not because the book is well-written (although the writing is fine). It is just creepy to read your profile that has pegged you so completely.

Ferial Alloush says

So far the most accurate description of an INTP, i would say that 80-90% applies. I liked how it addresses our inferior function (extroverted feeling) since it's often neglected. Many ugly and bitter truths that might be difficult to handle.

Tom says

This is one of the most useful guides to the INTP Myers-Briggs type currently available. Drenth's work

struck me as at times almost oracular in terms of insights and "how did it *know* that about me?" revelations, and for that reason alone would be a useful read for INTPs and those seeking to know more about them. The breadth of the book is also remarkable, covering the theory behind the INTP, then showing how it applies in a wide variety of life areas, including relationships and careers.

Deniz says

Highly recommend to all INTPs. (That's a Myers-Briggs Type Indicator for the uninitiated.)

Got me to understand for the first time that INTP is not simply I & N & T & P but more the encoding of a different functional stack that includes extroverted and sensing elements. Major a-ha moment for me. An absolute must if you want something like an introductory owner's manual to your INTP self structures. (I can't possibly see why you wouldn't.) While this whole thing might sound like pseudoscience, I especially recommended this book to INTPs who are skeptics of the Myers-Briggs typology (as the author professes to have been among) read this with an open mind, and I am sure you will find it a decent mirror to yourself.
