



Character and Neurosis: An Integrative View

Claudio Naranjo

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Compares the enneagram of personality types with other psychological character typing systems and discusses of the origins of each type.

Character and Neurosis: An Integrative View Details

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Author : Claudio Naranjo

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Drbev says

Excellent information, knowledge and insight!

Jessica Guajardo Covalles says

Naranjo is a phenomenal thinker - Disarmingly powerful.

Sarah says

I was ready to really like this book. As a psychotherapist who has casually studied enneagram, I was excited to go to the source and really dig in from a clinical perspective. What I found was a description of nine monsters-- I mean, no one you would ever want to have over for dinner-- save for the "generally happiest" three, I guess. His description of the Eight is wholly negative. Really, you could use the chapter to promote genocide and from reading about this type, it would do mankind a favor if they would all off themselves.

It has long been an academic trick to criticize others as a way of seeming in possession of greater knowledge. The psychoanalysts have made a career out of it, despite failing to uncover any empirical substantiation after 150 years. These are negative stories and as interesting as they may be, unless one is working in the few asylums we have left, they aren't particularly helpful, accurate, or useful.

I was disappointed overall, and more left wondering what negative experiences Naranjo had that inspired such vitriol than a sense that something very wise was being conveyed.

Ruta Juzulenaite says

An amazing and very deep insight into essence of human being. Greatest respect to the author

Qasim Zafar says

The primary personality model which the books explores various character traits is the Enneagram. What I really liked about it was how the author also related conceptually to other ways of looking at personality as a means of reinforcing ideas. Overall this is a good book, and I think the reader will really like the insights the author provides.

Daniel Ionson says

This Enneagram book is the most clinical (and hardest-hitting).

Dave says

A deep look into the Enneagram personality types (enneatypes) by the man who started it all. Some may find it a difficult read and some of the references associated with the types off-putting. Worth it for those wanting something more than the usual fare.

Leigh says

skimmed, irrelevant to me, can't rate.

culley says

Claudio, tell us what you really think! This book is a brutal description of the base neurotic capacities of the enneagram types. I found it to be ugly, pessimistic and negative in comparison to the spiritual expansiveness and focus on human potential seen in other enneagram books. That said, focusing on neurosis is helpful in typing others. Examine people in their worst light and you do get a sense of their base character.

The analysis of the enneagram types seems inspired by the classic, biological understanding of development. In type 4, envy becomes a “cannibalistic impulse” originating in the act of breastfeeding. (Is this a +1 for formula?). The orderliness of type one originates through the fastidiousness of potty training. Even the helpful type 2 becomes a pride-centered character engaged in acts of service as veiled acts of promiscuity in the search for love.

This is an interesting addition to the other enneagram books I have read, but definitely not a starting point for enneagram reading.

Suphatra says

One of the best psychology books I've ever read. Very clinical and erudite, but worth plowing through -- you won't find a better analysis of ennea-types except from the psychiatrist who brought it to the modern world.
