

The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery

Available October 2016

\$24, 220 pages, hardcover
978-0-8308-4619-1

"I'm so thrilled that this book exists. The Enneagram has absolutely changed my understanding of how to love the people in my life, deepened the quality of my marriage, and given me a vision for the person God designed me to be. This book makes the Enneagram easy to understand, with helpful stories, humor, warmth, and clear language. I'll need a case, at least."

—Shauna Niequist, author of *Savor and Bread & Wine*

What's Your (Enneagram) Number?

They say that ignorance is bliss – except when it comes to self-awareness. What you don't know about yourself *can* hurt you and your relationships. To lead us out of the spiritual and relational shallows, bestselling author Ian Morgan Cron and Enneagram master teacher Suzanne Stabile partner in their new book, *The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery*, breaking the complex spirituality of the Enneagram down for new learners.

The Enneagram, a personality typing system known for its uncanny accuracy in describing how human beings are wired, has seen a spike in popularity in recent years. Because of this, a new perspective on the sometimes daunting literature of the Enneagram is required. *The Road Back to You* offers a unique, narrative-based approach to the Enneagram that is specifically designed to help readers do the work of Christian growth and spiritual formation. "Some people steer clear of personal inventory tests. They don't want to be put in a box," Cron and Stabile said. "But the Enneagram has more to do with getting us out of the boxes we didn't know we were in."

Cindy Bunch, IVP's associate publisher for editorial, said, "Ian Cron's take on the Enneagram is full of the creative writing that one would expect from the author of *Chasing Francis*, with the invaluable addition of Suzanne Stabile's expertise through her years of teaching and training over five hundred Enneagram seminars across the country. It is an ideal writing collaboration."

Providing clear, action-oriented explanations of the positive and negative dynamics of each of the nine Enneagram types and pairing them with poignant personal stories, this book puts the wisdom of an ancient tool within easy, entertaining reach for greater self-awareness, offering insights into personal and professional relationships, and profound applications for spiritual growth.

Cron, author of *Chasing Francis*, is a popular author, speaker, counselor, musician, and Episcopal priest. Known for his transparency and spiritual insight, as well as his humor, Cron has presented at conferences, churches, seminaries, retreats, and universities around the world. He is curator of the Conversations on Courage and Faith program at Christ Church in Greenwich, Connecticut, and sits on the Board of Visitors at Duke Divinity School.

Stabile is an internationally recognized Enneagram master and has conducted more than five hundred Enneagram workshops. Her winsome style has brought her before college audiences and hundreds of churches across America. Her DVD curriculum for study groups, *The Enneagram Journey*, was released in October 2014 and has been used by individuals and groups nationwide.

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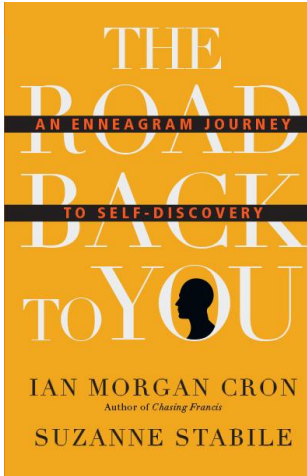
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“Over the years people have told me that working with the Enneagram has helped them find healing in their marriages, relate to their children with greater understanding, and become more forgiving, patient, and compassionate toward those who differ from them,” writes Cron. “They know the crooked timber from which their own hearts are made.

“I do not believe the Enneagram is infallible or inerrant. I do not think it is the be-all and end-all of Christian spirituality. People go through life without ever hearing about it and they get along just fine.

“That said, here’s my advice: If you find that this book supports you on your spiritual path, great. If not, don’t throw it away. Put it on your bookshelf instead. It might come in handy one day. Life hands us a challenging syllabus. We need all the help we can get.”



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"Ian Morgan Cron, partnering with Suzanne Stabile, has gifted us with another timely and brilliantly written book. We've long needed a fresh, spiritually grounded approach to helping people grow in self-knowledge and compassion. This is a winsome and thoughtful primer!"

— Mark Batterson, lead pastor, National Community Church, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Circle Maker*

"Run, Bambi, Run!"

Healthy Eights are great friends, exceptional leaders and champions of those who cannot fight on their own behalf. These Eights have the intelligence, courage and stamina to do what needs to be done. They have learned to use power in the right measure at the appropriate times, and they are capable of collaborating and valuing the contributions of others. They understand vulnerability and even embrace it at times.

Average Eights tend to be drivers more than diplomats. They are dualistic thinkers, so people are good or bad, opinions are right or wrong, and the future is bright or bleak. They prefer to lead, struggle to follow and use aggression to protect themselves. These Eights are leaders in most businesses and organizations, and others follow them with little or no hesitation. They have little patience with anyone who isn't pulling their weight.

Unhealthy Eights are preoccupied with the idea that they are going to be betrayed. Suspicious and slow to trust others, they quickly resort to revenge when wronged. They believe they can change reality, and they make their own rules and expect others to follow them. Eights in this space destroy as much as they create, believing the world is a place where people exist to be used and that contributions from others have little or no lasting value.

When we first moved to Nashville our family was invited to a dinner party at the home of a new neighbor. Over dinner my then thirteen year-old son Aidan began to talk about a story he'd heard and enjoyed on the way home from school on the NPR show *All Things Considered*. Aidan wasn't three sentences into describing the premise of the story when a middle-aged man across the table interrupted him by booming out, "The only people who listen to NPR are latte-drinking, skinny-jean-wearing, clove-cigarette-smoking hipsters."

Aidan's eyes grew wide as his face reddened. He hadn't yet learned that our community is for the most part politically conservative, and some of its residents regard NPR as no more than a propaganda machine for Ivy-League-educated communists. The neighbor then launched into a doozy of a tirade about left-wingers inventing global warming to destroy capitalism, the Supreme Court intending to impose Sharia law, and something about his pit bull's right to carry a handgun in the dog park.

An excruciating silence fell on the room. I was about to say something on Aidan's behalf when, from the vicinity where my daughter Cailey was sitting, I heard the unmistakable clearing of the throat that I knew translated to "Pilot to bombardier, open bomb bay doors." She was directly over her target and preparing to drop her rhetorical ordnance. I was about to yell, "Run, Bambi, run!" but there was no time. I commended the man's soul to God.

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“Armed with delightful but incisive wit, Cron and Stabile help us explore our inner life by making the mystery of the Enneagram accessible. If you want to better understand yourself and those in the world around you, this insightful and brilliant book is a perfect place to begin.”

—Wm. Paul Young, author of *The Shack*, *Cross Roads*, and *Eve*

At the time Cailey was a twenty-two-year-old senior at Middlebury College, one of the better liberal arts colleges in the country. This girl is smart as a whip, and she doesn't suffer fools gladly, particularly fools who pick on people she loves.

Cailey picked up her napkin from her lap, dabbed the corners of her mouth, calmly folded and placed it next to her plate, then turned to face the man who had smacked down her younger brother. “You're kidding, right?” she said, glaring at him like a panther marking its prey.

The man's eyebrows made a retreat up his forehead. “I'm sorry?” he responded, sadly unaware that the gates of hell were now unguarded.

Cailey turned to the rest of us at the table and gestured toward the man the way a circus ringmaster gestures to a clown about to be shot out of a cannon: “Friends, I give you another wing nut who uncritically believes everything he hears on conservative talk radio.”

The man shifted uncomfortably in his chair and sniffed. “Young lady, I—”

Cailey held up her hand to the man's face like a cop stopping traffic and proceeded to uncover and shred every weakness in his argument. It was an unrelenting fusillade of criticism, after a few minutes of which I felt a moral obligation to step in and stop.

“Thank you, Cailey,” I said.

“Sir, do us all a favor and have a point the next time you shoot your mouth off,” she scolded the man, punctuating her disparagement with a stinging flourish. She then unfolded her napkin and returned it to her lap. “Would you please pass the salt?” she said, licking her paws.

Cailey is an Eight on the Enneagram.

— Taken from chapter three, “Type Eight: The Challenger”