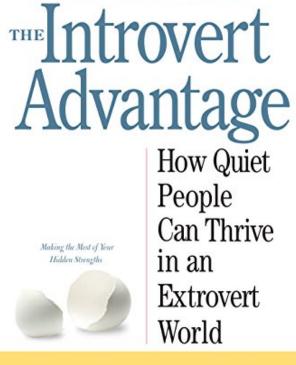
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At least one out of four people prefers to avoid the limelight, tends to listen more than they speak, feels alone in large groups, and requires lots of private time to restore their energy. They're introverts, and here is the book to help them boost their confidence while learning strategies for successfully living in an extrovert world.

After dispelling common myths about introverts-they're not necessarily shy, aloof, or antisocial--The Introvert Advantage explains the real issues. Introverts are hardwired from birth to focus inward, so outside stimulation-chitchat, phone calls, parties, office meetings-can easily become "too much."

The Introvert Advantage dispels introverts' belief that something is wrong with them and instead helps them recognize their inner strengths-their analytical skills, ability to think outside the box, and strong powers of concentration. It helps readers understand introversion and shows them how to determine where they fall on the introvert/extrovert continuum. It provides tools to improve relationships with partners, kids, colleagues, and friends, offering dozens of tips, including 10 ways to talk less and communicate more, 8 ways to showcase your abilities at work, how to take a child's temperament temperature, and strategies for socializing. Finally, it shows how to not just survive, but thrive-how to take advantage of the introvert's special qualities to create a life that's just right for the introvert temperament, to discover new ways to expand their energy reserves, and even how, when necessary, to confidently become a temporary extrovert.

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- Published on: 2002-02-01
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- Number of items: 1
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- Binding: Paperback
- 330 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

51 of 53 people found the following review helpful.Offers little advice for male introvertsBy PriorLightI first picked up this book with high expectations. As a man who's had to spend his entire life taking heat

from others for being a relatively reserved individual, the idea that my temperament was not only normal for an introvert but also potentially advantageous was a comforting one. To her credit, Laney does a good job explaining the fundamental differences between introverts and extroverts, and how these differences can be observed on a genetic level.

Where Laney ultimately fails in her attempt to bring introverts into a new sense of self-awareness is with male introverts. From the beginning, you can tell that she is writing this book not only from the position of a woman, but also for female readers. Virtually all of her stories are from the perspective of women, and it is rare that she speaks about male introverts. Laney seems to forget that half of the introverts she is attempting to reach are men, and the experience of a male introvert is vastly different from the experience of introverted women. For one thing, men are expected to be extroverted, while women can really get away with either temperament.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the field of dating and romance. Laney begins her book with promises of ways for introverts to discover and utilize their introvert advantages across fields of life, including dating, and yet when I reached this chapter, I was sorely disappointed. It became abundantly clear that she has little advice to offer introverted men, and the advice she did have was borderline insulting. She insinuates, however inadvertently, that introverted men are not capable of filling a traditional male role. She describes relationships for introverted men as "fundamentally challenging" and goes on to prescribe a program that is basically a form of intense relationship therapy in which the man and woman must go through several drawn out conversations and outline their basic expectations for the relationship. In particular, she suggests that the man take the time to consider his expectations.

That patronizingly translates to "lower your expectations and be ready for a lot of work", which your girlfriend is probably not going to want to go through when she could easily jump on board with an extroverted man who doesn't require any relationship therapy at all. For someone who spends the majority of her book encouraging introverts to embrace themselves and recognize that their introversion is not a curse, Laney seems to hold introverted men with a degree of contempt. Let's just say that if Laney were my psychologist, and repeated the sort of advice that I found in her book, I would walk out of her office and never return.

44 of 45 people found the following review helpful.

Nice advice for life as an introvert, but where's the "advantage"?

By E. Schwartz

There are two points in this book that Laney affirms again and again: that there is nothing wrong with being introverted, and that introverts draw their energy from quiet, peaceful situations and need to give themselves adequate time to recharge. These points are convincingly, if too repetitiously, made, but little time is spent advising introverts on how to play to their strengths. The subtitle of the book is "How to Thrive in an Extrovert World." "How to Cope in an Extroverted World" would be more apt.

The most useful section of this book offers advice on how to personalize your social interactions to the temperament of the audience. Introverts and extroverts need different kinds of praise, admonition, and conversation styles, and Laney explains how to adapt to family, friends, and co-workers on either end of the spectrum. In fact, this book might be more educational to extroverts than introverts, since introverted behavior is so often misinterpreted.

With its overwhelming message of self-acceptance, this book has a subtext that some could find discouraging: you will never be an extrovert, so stop trying so hard. Give yourself lots of breaks from highly stimulating environments, take precautions to protect yourself from situations that make you uncomfortable,

and take baby steps to "fake it" as an extrovert if you wish. The advice is aimed at the pure introvert - one who not only prefers peace and quiet, but thinks slowly, talks slowly, acts slowly, has low energy, and goes into sensory overload at the drop of a hat. For readers of mixed temperament, this characterization won't resonate.

This book hasn't convinced me that the advantages of being an introvert outweigh the disadvantages. But it does dispense better advice for life than most books in the self-help genre, so all in all it's a decent read.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Thrive and feel more alive after coming to a greater self awareness!

By smrtcookie

This is an awesome book that is really helping me to better understand myself and the other introverts around me. It has not only given me a better perspective, but is helping me learn how to use my qualities as an advantage in my environment, to improve interactions with others, improve relationships, and excel professionally. Things I used to feel were unique to me (and rather quirky), I have now realized I'm not alone! The references also help to further explore the topic (as you know introverts like to do! lol) Great job! I have already recommended it to many of my colleagues, friends, and family!The Introvert Advantage: How Quiet People Can Thrive in an Extrovert World

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