

2001: Dear INTJs

I'm a new member of our organization. I've looked over the messages from October, but I haven't seen anything on friendship, a topic I would like to discuss with you.

I've always had a love/hate relationship with friends. On the whole, I haven't been as successful at friendship as I have been in love. I have a loving partner and loving friendships with my mother and my cousin. But, my world of friends is, and has always felt, so poor.

I look for people who are interested in sharing my world of ideas, my deeply personal and cherished thoughts. I find every interaction I have with others is a one-on-one experience. I know no way to be otherwise in a group. When I address groups, I feel like an actor on stage and project myself onto my audience as a one-on-one relationship with all.

I look to be with others as I am with myself: intimate, close, personal, thoughtful, deep in my beloved words, as an architect among architects, a builder of great thoughts together. I yearn to hold others closely as we share connection to our thoughts. I feel so deeply when we touch lightly or don't touch at all, but when we hear a shared drummer, when we see the same vision, when we know, oh so biblically, each other through a book.

I'm sad. There's the word on paper. I show it to you with regret and shame. I can't help it. I should know better, but I don't. How does our type make and keep friends?