



TYPE FOUR: The Romantic

Overview:

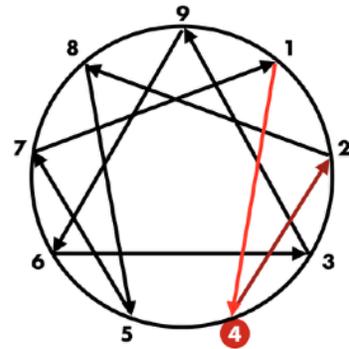
Type Fours are Romantics or Individualists. Fours highly value **emotional realism**. They are passionate, intense people who are typically creative, expressive, and drawn to music and art. Fours are inclusive of almost everyone, as long as they feel what they are experiencing through the connection is something genuine. Your Four friend will be a safe place for you to share yourself.

Fours often have visionary ideas and an incredible ability to put their own twist on almost everything. They believe they are unique, and they like it that way. They tend to trust their own intuitions. Fours sometimes have a sort of melancholy about them, but it isn't depression. Many can speak of "the joy of being sad." They do not avoid pain, whether their own or others'.

Less healthy Fours can put loved ones through a sort of push and pull routine. When the Four fears losing someone, they pull them closer. When they fear becoming dependent on someone, they push them away. They often overshare, overexplain, and overtalk, creating a sense of obligation that others cannot meet. Fours are sometimes bothered by a deep sense that something within them is lacking, and they can look at everyone else with a sense of envy. Even as they do this, they may be turning a blind eye to many good things they do have in their lives.

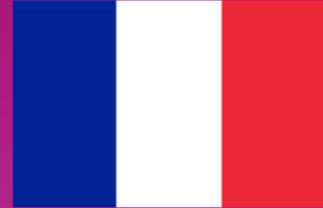
Am I A Four?

- Are you driven to be special or noticeably unique?
- Do your emotions sometimes engulf you?
- Do you spend a lot of time dwelling on the past?
- Do you appreciate sad movies and tragedies because of a deep chord they strike within your soul?
- Do you feel like you've spent your whole life searching for a sort of missing piece?
- In your relationships, do you rotate between being passionate and then withdrawn?
- Are you envious of other people's relationships, success, or happiness?



Color: **Hollyhock Purple**

National Code: **France**



Healthy Mascots

Beautiful Stallion



Pearl-Making Oyster



Unhealthy Mascot

Sad-Eyed Basset Hound



Scriptural Type Fours:

Notice the longing, erotic romanticism of **Shulamite, the Bride in Song of Solomon:**

8 *The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills.*
9 *My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, there he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, looking through the lattice.* 10 *My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away,*
11 *for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone.* 12 *The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.* 13 *The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.*
14 *O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the crannies of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.*
15 *Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom."* 16 *My beloved is mine, and I am his; he grazes among the lilies.* 17 *Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle or a young stag on cleft mountains.*

Song of Solomon 2:8-17

The prophet **Hosea** exhibits several Four traits, even though they are at God's suggestion. He marries Gomer, an unfaithful woman who spent some time as a prostitute. There is back and forth in the story where she runs away and then he goes to retrieve her and bring her home. This is all intended to be metaphorical for how Israel had been unfaithful to God, but he kept taking them back anyway.

In Hosea, you see emotional extremes where in chapter 11, he speaks of Israel as his baby, learning to walk to his arms, and he's ready to roar like a lion to call them all home. Yet by chapter 13, he describes God again as a lion, ready to attack them. The push and pull elements are on display in Hosea. His portrayal of God is deeply emotional, exploring all the dimensions of loving someone, experiencing rejection, and longing for healing and restoration.

Fours in Pop Culture

Bob Dylan is the consummate type Four. He has written songs about things that seem common to all people, but in a way that offers a unique perspective on them. His song "Positively 4th Street" contains both the loneliness and authenticity of a Four in just a few words:

*I wish that for just one time
You could stand inside my shoes
And just for that one moment
I could be you.*



The same is true of "Abandoned Love": So one more time at midnight, near the wall / Take off your heavy makeup and your shawl / Won't you descend from the throne, from which you sit? / Let me feel your love one more time before I abandon it.

Also "Mama, You Been On My Mind": When you wake up in the mornin, baby, look inside your mirror / You know I won't be next to you, you know I won't be near / I'd just be curious to know if you can see yourself as clear / As someone who has had you on his mind.



the VISUAL enneagram available on amazon

Growth for Fours:

Because Fours tend to have a sense of something missing, they move toward completeness by striving for union with God. The more we find our satisfaction in God, the more we can have peace and contentment in other areas.

The Four's desire to be original may drive them to overextend themselves in unnecessary ways, and so learning healthy boundaries and what is worth the extra effort are good ongoing areas for a Four's growth. Perhaps a little joy and a little sadness can be enough for now, saving total euphoria and despair for more fitting occasions.

Because Fours desire to experience reality, whether beautiful or ugly, they often do well working for issues of peace and justice. When they must encounter some dirty parts of the world which cannot merely be aesthetically transfigured, they learn to dig deeper for the best kinds of transformation.

"FOURS ARE THE MOST COMPLEX OF ALL THE TYPES ON THE ENNEAGRAM; WHAT YOU SEE IS NEVER WHAT YOU GET."

- SUSAN STABILE

Fours Need To Learn:

- Be grateful for the relationships you have right now, rather than dreaming for the ideal ones that do not exist.
- Understand your intense emotions may be overwhelming to others, so try to dial down that intensity when you communicate.
- You can surround yourself with beauty, but not all the time.
- Bear witness to pain without having to fix it.
- Learn to seek normalcy inside expectations of the exceptional.
- Craft your own identity and express yourself, but accept that not everyone will approve or understand, and that's ok.
- You cannot have more than one or two people who are able to give back in equal measure what you are willing to put into a relationship.
- Life is ordinary, and that's ok.
- There is no such thing as a perfect relationship. Perfection lies in your ability to accept what is and make it into something better.
- Most people care less about authenticity than you do.
- It is better to maintain a few deep and significant friendships rather than lots of shallow, social relationships.

How To Care For The Fours In Your Life:

- Fours need trust and steady attention in their personal relationships.
- People who do not shy away from the Four's intensity, but who can learn to value it will find Fours to be wonderful friends.
- Don't be afraid to tell a Four when you feel pressure to be more than you are able to be on your part. They will value your honesty and authenticity.
- Fours want to be authentic and original. If you will be honest with them about how their drive to be unique affects your life, you can probably find a livable compromise.
- Fours are always longing for what they don't have, and are comfortable with longing. You don't need to fix this.
- Don't tell Fours to "cheer up." They are comfortable with melancholy. It's ok for you to be lighthearted, even if they aren't.
- Learn to model balance for them when they are caught up in mood swings. It can help them normalize themselves.
- Fours feel like they aren't good enough or aren't liked. It is important for you to acknowledge their feelings, but you don't have to accept their premise. "I know that is how you're feeling right now, but I believe you are more competent, valuable, and lovable than you are seeing in yourself right now."
- In the workplace, set clear expectations for a Four, then allow them to do their thing. They need creative freedom. When they harness this to make things better, express appreciation.
- Don't take the push-pull dynamic too personally. Let them have room to explore their feelings.