Disagreements about the morality of markets – and about self-interested behavior within markets – run deep. They arise from widely differing perspectives within economics and political philosophy that appear to have nothing in common. In this book, Daniel Finn provides a framework for understanding these conflicting points of view. Recounting the arguments for and against markets and self-interest, he argues that every economy must address four fundamental problems: allocation, distribution, scale, and the quality of relations. In addition, every perspective on the morality of markets addresses explicitly or implicitly the economic, political, and cultural contexts of markets, or what Finn terms “the moral ecology of markets.” His book enables a dialogue among the various participants in the debate over justice in markets. In this process, Finn engages with major figures in political philosophy, including John Rawls, Robert Nozick, and Michael Walzer, as well as in economics, notably Milton Friedman, Friedrich Hayek, and James Buchanan.

Daniel K. Finn, an economist and a theologian, has written extensively on the relation of ethics and economics. The author of Just Trading: On the Economics and Ethics of International Trade and Toward a Christian Economic Ethic: Stewardship and Social Power, he received the Thomas F. Divine Award from the Association for Social Ethics for lifetime achievement in contributions to social economics and the social economy.
The Moral Ecology of Markets

Assessing Claims About Markets and Justice

DANIEL K. FINN

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To Jacob and Stephanie
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In the end, as usual, I can blame none of the shortcomings of this volume on any of the gracious persons who have assisted me. That responsibility I take myself.
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