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Aristotle and the Philosophy of Friendship

This is the first comprehensive study of the major philosophical works on friendship. The book gives central place to Aristotle's searching examination of friendship and self-love in the *Nicomachean Ethics*. Lorraine Smith Pangle argues that the difficulties in this discussion that have long puzzled scholars can be resolved once one understands the complexity of purpose of the *Ethics* as both a source of practical guidance for life and a profound, unsettling theoretical investigation into human nature.

The book also offers fresh interpretations of works on friendship by Plato, Cicero, Epicurus, Seneca, Montaigne, and Bacon. The author shows how each of these thinkers sheds light on central issues of moral philosophy: Is happiness to be found primarily in self-sufficiency, or in love and friendship with others? Is it possible to love another truly for the other's sake, or is all human affection rooted ultimately in self-interest?

Clearly and engagingly written, *Aristotle and the Philosophy of Friendship* provides a rich and thought-provoking examination into the nature of human selfishness, affection, and devotion.

Lorraine Smith Pangle teaches political philosophy at the University of Toronto. She is coauthor of *The Learning of Liberty: The Educational Ideas of the American Founders* and author of articles on Plato, Aristotle, the American Founders, and the philosophy of education.

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