Aristotle’s discussion of the motivation of the good person is both complicated and cryptic. Depending on which passages are emphasized, he may seem to be presenting a Kantian style view according to which the good person is and ought to be motivated primarily by reason, or a Humean style view according to which desires and feelings are or ought to be in charge. In this book, Paula Gottlieb argues that Aristotle sees the thought, desires and feelings of the good person as interdependent in a way that is sui generis, and she explains how Aristotle’s concept of choice (prohairesis) is an innovative and pivotal element in his account. Gottlieb’s interpretation casts light on Aristotle’s account of moral education, on the psychology of good, bad and half-bad (akratic) people, and on the aesthetic and even musical side to being a good person.

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Aristotle on
Thought and Feeling

PAULA GOTTLIEB
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To Nesta Phillips
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Abbreviations

Abbreviations for Aristotle’s works are as follows:

A Post.  Analytica Posteriora
A Pr.   Analytica Priora
Cael.  de Caelo
Cat.  Categoriae
de An.  de Anima
EE   Ethica Eudemia
EN   Ethica Nicomachea
GA  de Generatione Animalium
HA  Historia Animalium
Insomn.  de Insomniis
MA  de Motu Animalium
Mete.  Meteorologica
MM  Magna Moralia
Metaph.  Metaphysica
PA  de Partibus Animalium
Pol.  Politica
Po.  Poetica
Rh.  Rhetorica
Top.  Topica

Aristotle’s works are cited by book, chapter (according to the Roman figures in the Oxford Classical Text) and Bekker page, column, and line numbers (from Bekker’s edition of 1831).

Abbreviations for Plato’s works are as follows:

Chmr.  Charmides
Lg.  Leges
R.  Republic
Phdr.  Phaedrus

Plato’s works are cited by dialogue, Stephanus pages, and columns.