



# The Philosophy of Friendship

*Mark Vernon*

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## **The Philosophy of Friendship** Mark Vernon

Mark Vernon links the resources of the philosophical tradition with numerous illustrations from modern culture to ask what friendship is and how it relates to sex, work, politics and spirituality. Unusually, he argues that Plato and Nietzsche, as much as Aristotle and Aelred, should be put center stage. Their penetrating and occasionally tough insights are invaluable if friendship is to be a full, not merely sentimental, way of life for today.

## **The Philosophy of Friendship Details**

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Author : Mark Vernon

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# From Reader Review *The Philosophy of Friendship* for online ebook

## Tz348 says

over generalized

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## Nathanael Coyne says

Oft refers to the writings and opinions of the philosophers of Ancient Greece - primarily Plato - as well as Nietzsche and authors of contemporary research structured by types of friendships from those with co-workers to that shared by lovers.

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## Chris Porter says

There is definite value in here but possibly more high level analysis than relatable thoughts and ideas. It's less pop-philosophy and more "here's my thesis, professor". I'd recommend it to those who are wanting to learn more about the subject, but don't expect a page turner.

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## Elsbeth Rushbrook says

The title is a fascinating idea. Mostly, Mark Vernon's views are hidden behind quoting famous philosophers.

Mark's book is about passionate friendship. It's a very male orientated book, with women only really coming in at the end. I was unsure about the way he presented homosexuality in men and women, and if it is affirmed.

It could feel quite pessimistic (eg the first chapter on work friendships being about need and commodity) but there was a pervading interesting idea: that of romantic friendship. It seems that some very deep friendships don't fall neatly into a category of sexual or "platonic" (Mark explains that term is often misused). There is an inbetween mode of friendship, not repression of homosexuality, but a wonderful love where actually, Mark says, sex gets in the way. (I'd not endorse the last).

But what I would endorse is that here's a book that says, friendships are wonderful, in all sorts of combinations of gender and age and marital status. They've been experienced by celebrated philosophers - even (and especially) the miserable ones - and they have been experienced throughout time. And to keep making friendship special, keep having the courage to explore them fully, and not let them become characterised by need or diluted by modern media.

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## Richard says

I read this book a while ago. Mark Vernon provides a comprehensive, practical and philosophical overview of the nature and practice of friendship from ancient times through to the present.

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### **Grace says**

Now available as the Meaning of Friendship. Was glad this was chosen for my small group. It was very interesting, both for history and contemplation about what it means to be and have a friend. Great book to read as a group.

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### **Sue Lyle says**

Great readable guide to the history of the philosophy of friendship and how philosophers talk about friendship. Highly recommended for P4C practitioners.

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### **Fung Yen says**

Very nicely structured book.

Extremely informative first few chapters for a common man like me who has seen my fair share of utilitarian friendships but never really understood why.

Last few chapters got into the spirituality/philosophy of friendship that was a tad too heavy for my liking. But once I got through that, it was a pretty rewarding experience.

For those who don't like the circularity of Philosophy but nonetheless like to explore or understand certain worldly issues that concern us, this is a very good launchpad into further readings with regards to how the Ancient European world viewed friendships & how friendships have evolved over the time & space continuum.

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