

“After years of critical neglect, the topic of female friendship in art and life is finally receiving the attention it so richly deserves. *Female Friendship: Literary and Artistic Explorations* is a welcome addition to the growing scholarly fascination with this subject. This collection offers a varied and fresh look at what has made women appreciate, need, and support each other over the centuries. Writing across genres and continents, the scholars included in the volume add their voices to the vital and ongoing conversation about not only the remarkable value of female alliances, but also the significant challenges and transformations they must withstand to survive.”

—Margarita Marinova, Christopher Newport University

This volume focuses on the literary and artistic exploration of female friendship in various geographical contexts, spanning the centuries from the medieval period until the present. The essays address the intense female bonding in world literature as a universal human need for intimacy, sense of belonging, and purpose. The main focus is on the reevaluation of friendships between women, which have been traditionally less epitomized than those between men. The authors of this volume demonstrate how the emotional unions of women offer compelling insights to various historical and contemporary societies, helping us understand gender relations, traditions, family life, and community values.

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LEXINGTON BOOKS  
An imprint of  
Rowman & Littlefield  
800-462-6420 • www.rowman.com

Cover image: “Sunday Market-Oaxaca, Mexico,” by Ned Mueller.



*Female Friendship*

Gratchev, Day, and Sheret



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LITERARY AND ARTISTIC EXPLORATIONS

Edited by Slav N. Gratchev,  
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*Foreword by Ann Jefferson*