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In **Ethics: The Essential Writings,** philosopher Gordon Marino skillfully presents an accessible, provocative anthology of both ancient and modern classics on matters moral. The philosophers represent 2,500 years of thought—from Plato, Kant, and Nietzsche to Alasdair MacIntyre, Susan Wolf, and Peter Singer—and cover a broad range of topics, from the timeless questions of justice, morality, and faith to the hot-button concerns of today, such as animal rights, our duties to the environment, and gender issues. Featuring an illuminating preamble, concise introductory essays on the giants of ethical theory, and incisive chapter headnotes to the modern offerings, this Modern Library edition is a perfect single-volume reference for students, teachers, and anyone eager to engage in reflection on ethical questions, including “What is the basis for our ethical views and judgments?”

Gordon Marino is professor of philosophy and director of the Hong Kierkegaard Library at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. A recipient of the Richard J. Davis Ethics Award for excellence in writing on ethics and the law, he is the author of *Kierkegaard in the Present Age*, co-editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Kierkegaard*, and editor of the *Modern Library’s Basic Writings of Existentialism*. His essays have appeared in *The New York Times.*

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Editorial Review

From Booklist
This primer on moral philosophy, compiled by philosophy professor (and former competitive boxer) Marino, is both an introduction to the science of oughts and a demonstration of the subject's breadth. The first half collects excerpts from the canonical ethics texts of Western philosophy, including classics by Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Kant, and Mill, as well as a few wild cards (like Schopenhauer and Kierkegaard), which, though no less relevant, tend to appear less frequently in collections of this sort. The second half, more contemporary and somewhat more applied in its focus, includes such well-known works as Rawls' Theory of Justice and Walzer's discussion of dirty hands but also presents pieces that confront such specific ethical quandaries as animal rights, abortion, and treatment of the environment. Existentialism, Marino's specialty, is represented with an excerpt from Sartre and a prefatory reminder that life is about making choices. Capably pulled together by Marino's brief and pithy introductions of each excerpt, this selection will be of primary interest to students of philosophical ethics (as well as teachers looking for a textbook on the topic). --Brendan Driscoll

Users Review

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