

Big idea: We're all depending on each other all the time. When we depend on someone, we expect them to perform work for us (and they treat that expectation as applying to them). Once we see this, we can understand our valuable (parent-child, loving, caring) relationships more clearly.

Chapter 1: Dependency Relations Are Not (Necessarily) Need-Meeting Relations

When we depend on another person, this is *not* (necessarily) a matter of needing something from them.

- Dependency is not a relation where things are (necessarily) owed; we can depend for stuff we merely want, or for immoral favors.
- All previous theorists of dependence in care ethics have gotten the nature of dependence wrong!

Chapter 2: Depending on Others

When we depend on someone, we expect them to perform some work for us (and they countenance our expectation).

- Dependency relations are relations through which we participate in *responsibility practices*.
- Even newborn infants can do this! (At least, when we think about action in terms of participation in practices.)

Chapter 3: Love, Fairness, and Sharing a Life

When loving partners “share a life”, we can evaluate the lovingness of the partnership by evaluating how fairly they distribute contributions to their shared life (dependency work).

- Against the commonsense thought that introducing considerations of fairness can be “*unloving*”, it is sometimes the only way to make sure one is *loving*.
- The values of love and fairness are “integrated” in the sense that particular *actions* (in particular kinds of relationships) realize both values.

Chapter 4: Rethinking Dependence and Care

Caring relationships are not the only valuable kind of dependency relation.

- Disabled people who insist that they don't want care from others are tracking something important about the meaning of their relationships.
- Caring relationships are *intimate*, and we should have control over whether we enter & participate in intimate relationships.