



Coffee: Philosophy for Everyone: Grounds for Debate

Scott F. Parker (Editor) , Michael W. Austin (Editor) , Donald Schoenholt (Foreword) , Fritz Allhoff (Series_editor)

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Offering philosophical insights into the popular morning brew, *Coffee -- Philosophy for Everyone* kick starts the day with an entertaining but critical discussion of the ethics, aesthetics, metaphysics, and culture of coffee.

Matt Lounsbury of pioneering business Stumptown Coffee discusses just how good coffee can be Caffeine-related chapters cover the ethics of the coffee trade, the metaphysics of coffee and the centrality of the coffee house to the public sphere Includes a foreword by Donald Schoenholt, President at Gillies Coffee Company

Coffee: Philosophy for Everyone: Grounds for Debate Details

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From Reader Review Coffee: Philosophy for Everyone: Grounds for Debate for online ebook

Bethany says

This is a book I am reading for work but it is actually quite fascinating. It covers the difference between fair trade and direct trade, an interview with a Stumptown executive, and varied impressionistic and thoughtful passages on imbibing the most consumed psychoactive and "performance enhancing drug" in the world.

Darren says

Put two or more people around a table with a cup of coffee (or something similar) in their hands and a debate can ensue, it can range from daily events to deep philosophical matters. But how often is coffee itself the subject of a deeper discussion?

Through this book coffee is the central theme from start to finish, presented through a series of thought-provoking essays and opinions that cover the entire gamut of coffee-related matters. The first essay is the curiously-named "Coffee: Black Puddle Water or Panacea?" and that sets the tone as one goes forward.

This is not an uncritical "rah! rah!" book for coffee. That would be too simple. Criticism and scrutiny looks at issues such as coffee trade ethics, the role of the coffee house in society, the aesthetics of coffee and the place of chains such as Starbucks. One may say, truthfully with a smile on the face, that to read this book you will need a strong cup of coffee or three. It is quite hard-going and written in a thought-provoking, analytical manner and it should not be confused with a general "world of coffee culture"-style book as that will lead to disappointment.

Like many books of this genre you will either "get it" or not. But maybe that is the point also as you have to listen to a possible counter-argument and even if you concede some points and accept some viewpoints your overall position might remain constant. Or not. It is not necessary to read from cover-to-cover as each essay is an entity in its own right. This is not going to be an impulse buy or something to necessarily give to that special coffee-lover in your life, but if you take the time to examine the book with an open, curious mind it might be something that can keep you company with, of course, a good cup of something during a long journey.

You might even find a few more points for discussion.

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TheIron Paw says

Actually I only read about one third of it and just got tired of it. I am not a fan of short stories and I guess I'm not a fan of rambling collection of essays that seem to have little in common other than some mention of coffee. The essays I did read were reasonably well written, although some were rather dry. Overall, my low rating for this book is likely more due to my preferring either a single work or a more cohesive collection (this being said by someone who is having a ball with Bill Bryson's "At Home" - go figure).

Barbara says

Read parts. Fun. Interesting information.

Lexa Salindato says

Coffee and Philosophy. Two of my favourite things in the world, of course I'm gonna love this book!

It is not quite often that the subject of a philosophical discussion itself is every other man's common morning booster. From the raw aroma to the bitter and rich taste of every cup, even the symbolisms or the social connotations of coffee and choosing it over other beverages such as tea, this book captivates all sorts of arguments regarding coffee. I find myself particularly fond with Chapter 8 (*Cafe Noir*) and 9 (*Philosopher's Brew*) the most though.

Todd says

A solid collection of essays that use coffee as a means to discuss philosophical topics from Buddhism, Existentialism, etc. It is written in a way that most will understand. Also, it is written more for the coffee enthusiast than the Philosophy student.
