



# Between Friends: The Correspondence of Hannah Arendt and Mary McCarthy, 1949-1975

*Hannah Arendt , Mary McCarthy , Carol Brightman (Editor)*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# **Between Friends: The Correspondence of Hannah Arendt and Mary McCarthy, 1949-1975**

*Hannah Arendt , Mary McCarthy , Carol Brightman (Editor)*

**Between Friends: The Correspondence of Hannah Arendt and Mary McCarthy, 1949-1975** Hannah Arendt , Mary McCarthy , Carol Brightman (Editor)

American writer Mary McCarthy and Hannah Arendt, a philosopher who had fled Nazi Germany, met in New York City, and soon became friends. In *Between Friends*, a complete record of their epistolary dialogue which lasted a remarkable 25 years, the two intellectual celebrities trade ideas about politics, literature, and morality, and share gossip and intimate domestic details.

## **Between Friends: The Correspondence of Hannah Arendt and Mary McCarthy, 1949-1975 Details**

Date : Published March 1996 by Harvest Books (first published January 17th 1995)

ISBN : 9780156002509

Author : Hannah Arendt , Mary McCarthy , Carol Brightman (Editor)

Format : Paperback 412 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Philosophy, Biography, Politics, Biography Memoir

 [Download Between Friends: The Correspondence of Hannah Arendt an ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Between Friends: The Correspondence of Hannah Arendt ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Between Friends: The Correspondence of Hannah Arendt and Mary McCarthy, 1949-1975 Hannah Arendt , Mary McCarthy , Carol Brightman (Editor)**

---

## From Reader Review Between Friends: The Correspondence of Hannah Arendt and Mary McCarthy, 1949-1975 for online ebook

### Leka says

*Work in progress...perché non resisto*

Incredibile! Non mi era mai successo di trovare in un'edizione della Sellerio così tanti refusi. E tutti quei [sic!] agli errori delle due sono a dir poco indisponenti. Solo la curiosità (sbalordita a volte!) mi fa continuare a leggere. Più o meno.

---

### Lillian says

Loved the glimpse into the world of these two formidable thinkers ... the mix of deep thought, worries about children/husbands, gossip about friends (Auden, Robert Lowell, etc.), and the way each would bounce ideas off the other. Really wish I would have had time to follow the footnotes and read through their work in the archives of the New Yorker/Paris Review at the same time.

---

### Jessica says

These are two smart (and witty!) broads.

---

### Mark Valentine says

Raw, direct, honest, hurt, sincere, affectionate, articulate, genuine, loyal, active, ambitious, perceptive, reflective, gossipy, informational, humane, sneaky, personal, and real: These letters gave me more than a sense of who the two giants were behind their influential books; I felt I knew them and was grieved when it ended (with Hannah's death in 1975).

---

### Hilde Weisert says

Vivid, moving thirty-year correspondence between "thinking friends" (a term coined by the philosopher Sara Ruddick) capturing the times, as lived by people in the middle of them, and playing a part. I came away respecting and liking each of them more than I imagined from their other works, returning to read or re-read their books... Approached the end (Arendt's death in 1975) with a deepening sense of anxiety. Especially brought back the Vietnam - Watergate era I lived through but that had partly blurred in my own memory.

---

### Alba Cantón says

Ellas siguen dialogando si las seguimos leyendo... Larga vida a Arendt y a McCarthy! Creo que no podré olvidar el dolor de este epílogo; de la interrupción de cartas que llegaban cada vez con más frecuencia tanto como crecía su amistad con los años.

---

### **Rdonn says**

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this correspondence between two brilliant women, with their views on politics, literature, people etc. They used each other as sounding boards for their writings, and ideas. They were very loyal to each other, and when one was in trouble, the other would drop everything to help. Hannah flew to Mary when she had a miscarriage in Paris, and Mary flew immediately to Hannah when Heinrich, her husband died. I really feel letters are a wonderful way to get to know someone, especially as these letters were honest and deeply felt. Hannah was often called arrogant, but she doesn't come across this way at all. Most touching was when W.H. Auden came to see her in deep distress, saying he loved her and asked her for her help, though not in so many words. She felt unable to give him the support he needed and sent him away, very drunk. When he died not long after she was distraught. She was haunted by what she might have done to help him. (Probably nothing). The last year of letters is sad, as so many of their friends died, and then Hannah in Dec. 1975. Mary lived 14 years longer.

I must read more in this genre.

---

### **Marnie says**

Made me miss the world of letters -- literal letters, as in sent in the mail. These women used letters to work out their thinking, and the record of that thinking process is for the most part very interesting. Politics of the fifties and sixties -- the start of my life -- are fascinating.

---

### **James Murphy says**

Friends support each other. Support is a major element of the friendship between Hannah Arendt and Mary McCarthy, evident here in these warm letters. McCarthy supported Arendt in her controversial writings about Adolf Eichmann. Arendt supported McCarthy during love affairs and breakups and held her up during bad reviews of her novels.

These letters don't contain as much profound discourse as I would have expected, though there is some, primarily from Arendt. What there is plenty of is warmth. These two women were genuinely fond of each other. They were also free in expressing their opinions. Not gossip, though some pokes through, along with the occasional catty hiss about a particular personal dislike. But because their world was the New York and European intelligentsia and because they seemed to know everybody in those circles, the acquaintances generated thought and the thought opinion, but opinion so penetrating that it becomes insight. If the best prose is consistently McCarthy's, most of the intellectual content is provided by Arendt in openly discussing her work with her friend. And quite a lot of the discourse concerns American politics. After all, the years of the letters span the Joseph McCarthy hearings, the Vietnam War, and Watergate, all of which Arendt and McCarthy felt strongly about.

---