THE CALL OF CHARACTER

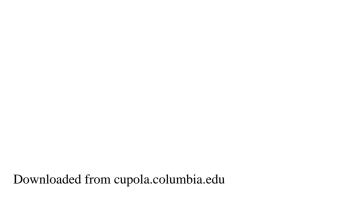
LIVING A LIFE WORTH LIVING



MARI RUTI

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THE CALL OF CHARACTER



The Call of Character Living a Life Worth Living

Mari Ruti



Columbia University Press

Publishers Since 1893

New York Chichester, West Sussex cup.columbia.edu

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Ruti, Mari.

The call of character : living a life worth living / Mari Ruti.

pages cm
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 978-0-231-16408-5 (cloth: alk. paper) —
ISBN 978-0-231-53619-6 (e-book)
1. Character. 2. Conduct of life. I. Title.

BJ1521.R88 2013 170'.44—dc23 2013008069

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Columbia University Press books are printed on permanent and durable acid-free paper.

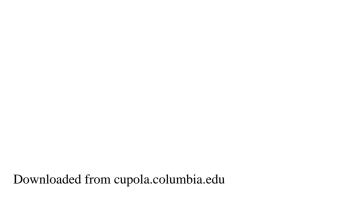
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To AZ I wrote this book for you before I even met you.



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PREFACE

One of the peculiarities of this book is that it presents relatively complex ideas in relatively simple language. I chose this approach because I believe that my topic—the question of what makes each of us a unique and idiosyncratic character—should be accessible to readers beyond the academy. At the same time, I have sought to avoid the overly simplistic tone of much of the popular writing on the theme. When self-help or New Age gurus tackle the question of what it means to lead a fulfilling life, the kind of life that feels worth living, they tend to advocate a streamlined program of (concrete or spiritual) steps that is supposed to lead to a harmonious existence, thereby sidestepping all the ways in which human life is not designed to be harmonious. Likewise, they tend to fall back on an untheorized notion of what it means to be a human being in the first place, talking as if the matter were completely straightforward. It's not. As a result, if this book has a goal, it is to remain