**Friends Beyond Borders**

**The Six Cultural Styles of Close Friendships**

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| ***Interveners***\*Feel it is their duty, responsibility to take care of their friends\*Advise, aid, instruct, and influence their friends in positive ways\*See dependence on friends as a good, healthy thing\*Often help a friend without being asked\*Can offer critical advice in the spirit of wanting to help the friend\*React to unwanted interventions with rebuttal or silent acceptance\*Can go quite far in their attempts to help a friend in need\*Tend to be unbothered by lopsided giving/receiving exchanges\*Like to do things for their friends | ***Independents***\*Encourage and respect their friend’s individuality, autonomy\*Value spending time together, lowering stress, having fun\*Are good listeners, sounding boards for friends having problems\*Offer encouragement to boost friend’s morale during difficult times\*Prefer maintaining a strong sense of independence in their friendships\*See their independent spirit as adaptive and healthy\*Tend to “keep score” when giving/receiving aid to ensure equality\*Value “being there” for friends, but don’t see this as a duty |

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| ***Intervener Talk***\*Minimal apologies for broken promises\*Less word-oriented communications\*Words can cheapen deep sentiments\*Attend to non-verbal cues\**Kibun* as communicative\*Social silences as positive or negative\*See wordiness as insincere/cover-up\*Talk as less central to friendship\*Less comfortable with self-disclosure\*Closeness depends on time, shared experiences, mutual interventions | ***Independent Talk***\*Detailed apologies for broken promises\*Very word-oriented communications\*Words can express deep sentiments\*Mostly ignore non-verbal cues\*No equivalent to *Kibun*\*Social silences nearly always negative\*See wordiness as an attempt at clarity\*Talk as central to feelings of closeness\*Self-disclosure as key to feeling close\*Closeness depends on self-disclosure, knowing and respecting each other |

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| ***Excluders***\*Behave differently toward friends versus people unknown to them\*Tend to be cold, “unfriendly,” and wary towards strangers\*Feel much more secure in the company of a few close friends\*Employ a much more formal language with strangers\*For many Asians, strangers don’t “exist,” even when they are close by\*Have very well-developed “social skills for closeness”\*Tend to have low need for social approval from friends or strangers\*Enjoy spending extended periods of time with a close friend\*Can be offended by an *Includer* friend’s tendency to talk to everyone\*Are less comfortable than *Includers* with meeting new people.  | ***Includers***\*Project an open friendly demeanor to nearly everyone\*Treat close friends and casual acquaintances alike\*Find friendliness of strangers normal and reassuring; people can be trusted\*Their friendliness may appear shallow and insincere to *Excluders*\*Feel/think differently about close friends, but this doesn’t show\*Have well-developed “social skills for superficial interactions”\*Feel high need for social approval from everyone, even strangers \*Are uncomfortable spending prolonged time with friends\*Tend to use the term “friend” very loosely\*Others may interpret their friendliness as a desire for friendship |

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| ***Realists***\*Do not hold idealized notions of their closest friends\*Think about friends as having both positive and negative traits\*On surveys, do not rate traits of friends as highly as do *Idealists*\*Don’t see it as their role to boost the egos of their closest friends\*Are comfortable speaking directly and frankly with a close friend\*Can disagree strongly with a friend without it feeling like a conflict\*Are less concerned about issues of face with their closest friends\*Rate friends less highly, thus lowering scores on relationship closeness\*See friendships as predestined; thus not needing “maintenance” | ***Idealists***\*Tend to hold positive illusions about their closest friends\*Think about their friends as having mostly positive traits\*On surveys, rate their friends higher than do *Realists*\*Rate friends positively, indirectly enhancing their own self-esteem\*Tend to avoid strong disagreement with close friends\*Emphasize the positive when in the company of their close friends\*Are concerned about issues of face with their closest friends\*Their positive ratings result in higher scores on closeness\*See friendships as fragile, needing constant “maintenance” |