



# Doing and Being: An Interpretation of Aristotle's Metaphysics Theta (Oxford Aristotle Studies Series)

*Jonathan Beere*

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## **Doing and Being: An Interpretation of Aristotle's Metaphysics Theta (Oxford Aristotle Studies Series)**

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*Doing and Being* confronts the problem of how to understand two central concepts of Aristotle's philosophy: *energeia* and *dunamis*. While these terms seem ambiguous between actuality/potentiality and activity/capacity, Aristotle did not intend them to be so. Through a careful and detailed reading of *Metaphysics* Theta, Beere argues that we can solve the problem by rejecting both "actuality" and "activity" as translations of *energeia*, and by working out an analogical conception of *energeia*. This approach enables Beere to discern a hitherto unnoticed connection between Plato's *Sophist* and Aristotle's *Metaphysics* Theta, and to give satisfying interpretations of the major claims that Aristotle makes in *Metaphysics* Theta, the claim that *energeia* is prior in being to capacity (Theta 8) and the claim that any eternal principle must be perfectly good (Theta 9).

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