

Michael E. Stone

Cynical, or just?

"There is little friendship in the world, and least of all between equals; that which is, is between superior and inferior, whose fortunes may comprehend the one the other."
Francis Bacon, On Friendship.

Are friends, friends or does it just suit them?
and students ... ?
I crave closeness.
making friendships *sens unique*.
Do I give,
and fool myself about the takers.
Do I see self-interest as liking
and liking as love?

How few are true;
of Bacon's inferiors, superiors —
(adverbs of place)?
"Least between equals," he says;
how sad that saying's sayer!

Is all callous,
self-seeking,
or is it a mixture,
like us?