Contents

Preface xi

l Jerks and Excuses 1

- 1 A Theory of Jerks 3
- 2 Forgetting as an Unwitting Confession of Your Values 15
- 3 The Happy Coincidence Defense and The-Most-You-Can-Do Sweet Spot 17
- 4 Cheeseburger Ethics (or How Often Do Ethicists
 Call Their Mothers?) 21
- 5 On Not Seeking Pleasure Much 33
- 6 How Much Should You Care about How You Feel in Your Dreams? 37
- 7 Imagining Yourself in Another's Shoes versus
 Extending Your Love 39
- 8 Is It Perfectly Fine to Aim for Moral Mediocrity? 43
- 9 A Theory of Hypocrisy 49
- 10 On Not Distinguishing Too Finely among
 Your Motivations 53
- 11 The Mush of Normativity 59
- 12 A Moral Dunning-Kruger Effect? 63

| 13 | The Moral Compass and | | the | Liberal | Ideal | in |
|----|------------------------|----|-----|---------|-------|----|
| | Moral Education | 69 | | | | |

II Cute Al and Zombie Robots 73

- 14 Should Your Driverless Car Kill You So Others
 May Live? 75
- 15 Cute Al and the ASIMO Problem 79
- 16 My Daughter's Rented Eyes 85
- 17 Someday, Your Employer Will Technologically
 Control Your Moods 89
- 18 Cheerfully Suicidal Al Slaves 93
- 19 We Would Have Greater Moral Obligations to Conscious Robots than to Otherwise

 Similar Humans 97
- 20 How Robots and Monsters Might Destroy Human Moral Systems 101
- 21 Our Possible Imminent Divinity 107
- 22 Skepticism, Godzilla, and the Artificial Computerized Many-Branching You 111
- 23 How to Accidentally Become a Zombie Robot 117

III Regrets and Birthday Cake 127

- 24 Dreidel: A Seemingly Foolish Game That Contains the Moral World in Miniature 129
- 25 Does It Matter If the Passover Story Is

 Literally True? 133
- 26 Memories of My Father 137
- 27 Flying Free of the Deathbed, with Technological Help 141
- 28 Thoughts on Conjugal Love 145
- 29 Knowing What You Love 149

- 30 The Epistemic Status of Deathbed Regrets 153
- 31 Competing Perspectives on One's Final,

 Dying Thought 157
- 32 Profanity Inflation, Profanity Migration, and the Paradox of Prohibition (or I Love You, "Fuck") 161
- 33 The Legend of the Leaning Behaviorist 165
- 34 What Happens to Democracy When the Experts
 Can't Be Both Factual and Balanced? 167
- 35 On the Morality of Hypotenuse Walking 171
- 36 Birthday Cake and a Chapel 175

IV Cosmic Freaks 179

- 37 Possible Psychology of a Matrioshka Brain 181
- 38 A Two-Seater Homunculus 189
- 39 Is the United States Literally Conscious? 195
- 40 Might You Be a Cosmic Freak? 201
- 41 Choosing to Be That Fellow Back Then: Voluntarism about Personal Identity 207
- 42 How Everything You Do Might Have Huge Cosmic Significance 213
- 43 Penelope's Guide to Defeating Time, Space, and Causation 217
- 44 Goldfish-Pool Immortality 223
- 45 Are Garden Snails Conscious? Yes, No, or *Gong* 229

V Kant versus the Philosopher of Hair 237

- 46 Truth, Dare, and Wonder 239
- 47 Trusting Your Sense of Fun 243
- 48 What's in People's Stream of Experience during Philosophy Talks? 247

- 49 Why Metaphysics Is Always Bizarre 253
- 50 The Philosopher of Hair 259
- 51 Obfuscatory Philosophy as Intellectual
 Authoritarianism and Cowardice 263
- 52 Kant on Killing Bastards, Masturbation,
 Organ Donation, Homosexuality, Tyrants, Wives,
 and Servants 267
- Nazi Philosophers, World War I, and the Grand Wisdom Hypothesis 273
- 54 Against Charity in the History of Philosophy 283
- 55 Invisible Revisions 289
- 56 On Being Good at Seeming Smart 291
- 57 Blogging and Philosophical Cognition 295
- 58 Will Future Generations Find Us

 Morally Loathsome? 305

Acknowledgments 311
Notes 315
References 335
Index 363