

Contents

Acknowledgments — IX

Preliminary Remarks — 1

1 A Tale of Two Concepts — 37

- 1.1 Humour — 37
- 1.2 Cruelty — 89
- 1.3 Family Resemblances — 148

2 Humorous Cruelty — 157

- 2.1 A Fistful of Examples — 161
- 2.2 Commonplace Humour — 168
- 2.3 True Humour — 237
- 2.4 Hermeneutics — 241
- 2.5 Performances — 248

3 Cruel Humour — 301

- 3.1 The Elusiveness of Cruel Humour — 301
- 3.2 More Views on Cruel Humour — 312
- 3.3 Cruel Humour and the Self — 328
- 3.4 Humorous Oppression — 341
- 3.5 Humour's Cruelty — 372

4 Dangerous Liaisons — 374

- 4.1 A Doubt — 374
- 4.2 A Dance — 378
- 4.3 A Tetralogy — 382
- 4.4 A Taxonomy — 391
- 4.5 A Theory — 397
- 4.6 A Dictum — 404
- 4.7 A Dilemma — 407
- 4.8 A Debasement — 411
- 4.9 A Dichotomy — 424

Bibliography — 433

Index — 481

