Contents

Introduction Sketching the Argument for Humor & the Common Good —— 1
Chapter 1 Views on the Common Good —— 10
Chapter 2 Humor, Laughter, & Mirth in Our Lives: Laughter as an Aggregative Common Good —— 32
Chapter 3 Humor, Happiness, & Wellbeing —— 48
Chapter 4 Beyond the Instrumental Benefits of Humor —— 65
Chapter 5 Humor, Laughter, & Mirth in Interpersonal Relationships: Philosophical & Empirical Findings —— 69
Chapter 6 Humor, Laughter, & Mirth in Society: Philosophical & Empirical Findings —— 87
Chapter 7 The Darker Side of Humor: Ridicule & Social Degradation —— 107
Chapter 8 Isn't it Funny When We Fail: Shortcomings of the Project, Objections Entertained —— 131
Chapter 9 He Who Laughs Last: Concluding Remarks for Laugher —— 144
References —— 149
Index —— 162