CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521340381 - Analyzing Love - Robert Brown
Frontmatter/Prelims
More information

CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY

Analyzing Love

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521340381 - Analyzing Love - Robert Brown
Frontmatter/Prelims
More information

CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHA

General editor SYDNEY SHOEMAKER
Advisory editors J.E.J. ALTHAM, SIMON BLACKBURN, GILBERT HARMAN, MARTIN HOLLIS, FRANK JACKSON, JONATHAN LEAR, JOHN PERRY, BARRY STROUD

JAMES CARGILE *Paradoxes: a study in form and prediction*
PAUL M. CHURCHLAND *Scientific Realism and the plasticity of mind*
N.M.L. NATHAN *Evidence and assurance*
WILLIAM LYONS *Emotion*
PETER SMITH *Realism and the progress of science*
BRIAN LOAR *Mind and meaning*
J.F. ROSS *Portraying analogy*
DAVID HEYD *Supererogation*
PAUL HORWICH *Probability and evidence*
ELLERY EELLS *Rational decision and causality*
HOWARD ROBINSON *Matter and sense*
E.H. BOND *Reason and value*
D.M. ARMSTRONG *What is a law of nature?*
HENRY KYBURG JR *Theory and measurement*
N.J.H. DENT *The moral psychology of the virtues*
MICHAEL H. ROBINS *Promising, intending, and moral autonomy*
ANTHONY APPIAH *Assertion and conditionals*
R.A. DUFF *Trials and punishments*
FLINT SCHIER *Deeper into pictures*
ROBERT M. GORDON *The structure of emotions*

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521340381 - Analyzing Love - Robert Brown
Frontmatter/Prelims
More information

Analyzing Love

Robert Brown

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521340381 - Analyzing Love - Robert Brown
Frontmatter/Prelims
More information

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, United Kingdom
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

© Cambridge University Press 1987

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1987
Reprinted 1989, 1997

Typeset in Bembo

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congess Cataloguing-in-Publication Data is available

ISBN 0-521-34038-1 hardback

Transferred to digital printing 2003

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521340381 - Analyzing Love - Robert Brown
Frontmatter/Prelims
More information

Contents

Preface *page vii*

Introduction: The problems *1*

1 *Love and its objects* *14*
Constraints on loving 14
Liking and loving 17
Objects of love and love of objects 20
Loving care and benevolence 26
Focused attention and formative regard 31
Love-comprising relations and public criteria 33
Love, infatuation, and evaluation 35
The lover's judgment of what is loved 39
What does the lover love? 41

2 *Sexual desire* *47*
Sexual desire as the wish for physical contact 47
Sexual activity independent of love 50
Love and sexual activity: similarities and differences 54
Learning to express love and sexual desire 59
Additional similarities between love and sexual desire 61

3 *Identifying the presence of love* *66*
The central traits of the beloved 66
Homosexuality as a central trait 68
Loving and being in love 70
The grounds for claiming to be in love 74

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521340381 - Analyzing Love - Robert Brown
Frontmatter/Prelims
More information

Falling in love 77
Being in love: beliefs and decisions 81
Being in love: the strength of a disposition 85
The strength and identity of momentary feelings 88

4 *Emotions and attitudes: Loving a person* *94*
Scruton's distinction between emotions and attitudes 94
Emotional and nonemotional attitudes 97
Attitudes-terms and emotion-terms 100
Loving particular versus universal objects 102
The lovable and the fearsome 110
Reasons for loving and fearing 113
Criticizing the lover's judgments of inherent worth 117
The grounds for criticizing the lover's judgments 120
The distinctiveness of love 124

Works cited 129
Index 131

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521340381 - Analyzing Love - Robert Brown
Frontmatter/Prelims
More information

Preface

This book was intended to be, and remains, a short introduction to a subject whose boundaries recede with each attempt to characterize them. Nevertheless, the role of benevolence, care, solicitude, and love in human life is so obvious and important that at first glance any new discussion of it may seem to be redundant. Yet the truth is otherwise. For the character of personal relations in advanced industrial societies is constantly being altered by the ceaseless changes in the social institutions of which those relations are a part. Hence as members of such societies, it is natural for us to wish to examine those relationships over a period of time in order to understand what sort of people we are in the process of becoming. Before we can do that, however, we have to try to remind ourselves of the nature of the emotions and attitudes that are embedded in some of our ways of dealing with other people, and with animals and objects. Love and care are basic elements in many of these practices, and thus the former will attract attention whenever the latter are under close scrutiny. For this and other reasons there has been renewed interest in recent years concerning the connections among the different emotions and various traits of human character on the one hand, and the links between both of these and the moral virtues and vices on the other. In *Analyzing Love* I have attempted to discuss at length only some aspects of one emotion, but it should be clear that a powerful motive for doing so is eventually to shed light, if possible, on our judgments – or misjudgments – of human character.

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
0521340381 - Analyzing Love - Robert Brown
Frontmatter/Prelims
More information

The scope and complexity of these interrelated problems is revealed by the extended treatment given to them in Roger Scruton's recent book *Sexual Desire*. He explores what he takes to be the psychological and moral implications of the view that in normal sexual desire the partners desire each other as self-conscious, free, and responsible moral agents whose state of arousal is cooperative and reciprocal. The discussion of these implications leads Scruton to take up a great range of topics in addition to sexual desire: Among them are the first-person perspective, intentionality, moral theory, the concept of a person, religion and sex, and of course love. In *Analyzing Love* I consider only a few of these. This text was completed before Scruton's book reached me, and while some of our conclusions are similar, they are reached by independent routes that, if pursued further, would diverge toward disparate outcomes. I have resisted the strong temptation to alter my text in order to take account of the many important, interesting, and also highly contentious, points that are put forward in *Sexual Desire*, especially since they do not affect my comments on Scruton's earlier views. To succumb to the temptation would have been to write a very different, and much longer, book.

For aid in what I have written I am particularly indebted to John Passmore for his detailed and helpful comments on an earlier draft. I also thank Ann Lane for her perceptive criticism of certain sections. Vibeke Wetselaar and Wendie Woods have shared the burden of typing the manuscript. I am grateful not only for their willingness to take on the task but also for the competence with which it was done.

© Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org