[Contents]

Acknowledgments xi

PART I "But what am I, then?" Chasing Personal Essences

across National Literatures	
 Ural Mountains–Rome–London 	
2. Essentialism, Functionalism, and Cognitive Psychology	6
Possible Evolutionary Origins of Essentialist Thinking	13
4. "A bullet's a bullet's a bullet!" 15	
5. Talk to the Door Politely or Tickle It in Exactly the Right Place	17
6. Resisting Essentialism 19	
7. The Ever-Receding "Essence" of Sosia 23	
8. Identical Twins and Theater 30	
How Is Mr. Darcy Different from Colin Firth?	
 Looking for the Real Mademoiselle 42 	_
II. "Mahatma Gandhi: war!" "But he was a pacifist." "Right! War!"	48
PART 2 Why Robots Go Astray, or The Cognitive Foundations of the Frankenstein Complex 1. What Is the Frankenstein Complex? 2. On Zygoons, Thricklers, and Kerpas 3. Theory of Mind 57	ive
4. Theory of Mind and Categorization: Preliminary Implications	63
5. Concepts That Resist Categorization 65	
6 and the Stories They Make Possible 68	
7. The Stories That Can Be Told about a Talking Needle	72
8. Asimov's "The Bicentennial Man" 75	
Cognitive Construction of "Undoubted Facts":	
"The Bicentennial Man" and the Logic of Essentialism 79)
to Made to Rebel 85	

15.	Made to Serve. Made	to Obey.	Made to	Break Hearts	122
	PART 3 Som	e Spec	ies of	Nonsense	
I. How Nonsense Makes Sense in The Hunting of the Snark					
2.	"Strings of Impossibil	ia" and V	Vhat The	y Tell Us about the	•
	Value of	f Nonsen	ise 12	4 I	
	3. "Painters of the	: Unima	ginable,"	or More about	
	Really Stra	nge Con	cepts	146	

14. Made to Pray 116

II. Why Phyllis Is Still a Robot

12. ... and Why Rei Toei Is Not

13. More Human Than Thou (Piercy's He, She and It)

89

96

100

Conclusion: Almost beyond Fiction 166

Notes 173
Bibliography 195
Index 207