# CONTENTS

Introduction	xi
Acknowledgments	xix
BIG QUESTIONS	
A Pale Blue Dot at the Hinge of History	3
Does Anything Matter?	8
Is There Moral Progress?	12
The God of Suffering	18
Do You Have a Moral Plan? (with Agata Sagan)	22
Are We Ready for a "Morality Pill"? (with Agata Sagan)	26
The Empathy Trap	30
Can Ethics Be Taught?	34
Thinking about the Dead	39
Should This Be the Last Generation?	44
ANIMALS	
The Case for Going Vegan	51

### vi CONTENTS

Why Loving Our Animals Is Not Enough	
(with Agata Sagan)	58
Learning from Europe's More Ethical Eggs	62
If Fish Could Scream	66
The Nation of Kangaroos	70
Who Is a Person?	74
The Cow Who	78
The Measure of Moral Progress	82
Are Insects Conscious?	86
Plant Liberation?	90
LIFE AND DEATH	
The Real Abortion Tragedy	97
Abortion, Democracy, and the Reversal of Roe	101
Treating (or Not) the Tiniest Babies	105
Pulling Back the Curtain on the Mercy Killing of	
Newborns	108
Should Children Have the Right to Die?	112
No Diseases for Old Men	116
When Doctors Kill	120
Choosing Death	124
PUBLIC HEALTH AND PANDEMIC ETHICS	
Public Health versus Private Freedom	133
The Human Genome and the Genetic Supermarket	137

## CONTENTS vii

An Ethical Pathway for Gene Editing	
(with Julian Savulescu)	141
Kidneys for Sale?	146
Deciding Who Lives and Who Dies	149
Were the Lockdowns Justified? (with Michael Plant)	153
Victims of the Unvaccinated	157
Ending the Taboo on Talking about Population (with Frances Kissling and Jotham Musinguzi)	164
SEX AND GENDER	
Should Adult Sibling Incest Be a Crime?	171
Homosexuality Is Not Immoral	175
A Private Affair?	178
How Much Should Sex Matter? (with Agata Sagan)	182
Ban the Burkini?	187
The Case for Legalizing Sex Work	191
DOING GOOD	
Holding Charities Accountable	197
Good Charity, Bad Charity	201
Heartwarming Causes Are Nice, But	205
The Ethical Cost of High-Priced Art	210
Extreme Altruism	214
The Lives You Saved	217

# viii CONTENTS

HAPPINESS	
Happiness, Money, and Giving It Away	223
Can We Increase Gross National Happiness?	227
The Moral Urgency of Mental Health (with Michael Plant)	231
Prisoners of Pain	235
No Smile Limit	239
Happy, Nevertheless	242
POLITICS	
The Founding Fathers' Fiscal Crisis	249
Why Vote?	253
Is Citizenship a Right?	257
The Spying Game	261
Is Marx Still Relevant?	264
Should We Honor Racists?	268
Is Violence the Way to Fight Racism?	272
Are Riots Justifiable? (with Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek)	276
GLOBAL PROBLEMS	
The Refugee Dilemma	283
Is Open Diplomacy Possible?	288
Paris and the Fate of the Earth	292
Greta Thunberg's Moment	29

301

Stopping Putin

## CONTENTS ix

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	
A Clear Case for Golden Rice	309
Life Made to Order	313
A Dream for the Digital Age	317
The Tragic Cost of Being Unscientific	321
FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY	
Free Speech, Muhammad, and the Holocaust	327
Free Speech and Fake News	330
Why Google Was Wrong	334
Keeping Discussion Free	338
LIVING, WORKING, PLAYING	
Why Pay More?	345
Beyond the Traditional Family (with Agata Sagan)	349
Tiger Mothers or Elephant Mothers?	353
How Honest Are We?	357
Is Doping Wrong?	361
Is It OK to Cheat at Football?	365
Why Climb Mount Everest?	369
A Surfing Reflection	372
THE FUTURE	
Should We Live to 1,000?	377
Rights for Robots? (with Agata Sagan)	381

### x CONTENTS

Can Artificial Intelligence Be Ethical?	384
Do You Want to Be a Cyborg? (with Agata Sagan)	388
Preventing Human Extinction (with Nick Beckstead and Matt Wage)	392
Should We Colonize Outer Space? (with Agata Sagan)	399
Do Aliens Have Rights?	404
Sources	409
Index	417