PREFACE

I consider that it is the duty of every artist to capture beauty and freeze it for eternity. Every novelist is an artist and each has his own way of depicting life. If ordinary life is treated in an ordinary way it will not be appealing to everyone. The novelist has to look for beauty in the ordinary incidents of mundane life and shape it with the help of his imagination in such a way that the end product is really attractive. A novel which entertains the reader is good, but a novel which interprets life is better.

It is a natural tendency for a person to nurse a liking for anything familiar and true and I am no exception. John Braine's novels deal with homes and lovers of homes. In simple readable language he portrays the normal desires of the normal human beings. His true to life characters speak for themselves and also act as travel guides in the unfamiliar path of human psychology. When man is pitted against man and also against himself it leads to psychological conflict. Braine plays his cards and demands the readers to acknowledge (through his underplaying) the imminent psychological probe.

The basic tenets of psychology like anger, jealousy, repression, depression and addiction are found in Braine's characters. This universal factor familiarizes his men and women to people outside the English Scenery. His protagonists are caught in a psychological web due to their passionate nature and an innate desire to belong to their kith and kin. Almost every novel comes out with a message at the end and that makes the study really valuable.
Braine clearly indicates in his novels that every activity of an intelligent person is directed towards a quest for some reality. After the quest, the person is richer with the knowledge of something about the world. It also helps him in his self-realization and enables him to lead a meaningful life.

Braine endears himself to his readers because he is absolutely devoid of hypocrisy. He expresses the idea that the right self-love and the right love of others are interdependent. According to him the first duty of every father towards his children is to love their mother. Anybody would be impressed by his simple philosophy of life. For him true happiness emanates from a firm family relationship. He who is really happy at home is free of many psychological problems and so can do well as a useful citizen in the society. I have developed a personal attachment to the characters of Braine because they live to love and love to live. Scholars are of the opinion that human relationship can cure many ills of modern society and for Braine, family relationship is the starting point. It is easy to understand his interpretation of life and so there is little wonder that Braine remains the favourite of all those who swear by family relationship.