# Contents

Preface ix  
Introduction: Desperately Seeking Satan 1  

**CHAPTER 1 • Satan in the Modern World** 13  
Satan Goes to Hollywood 16  
Satan among Satanists 28  
Satan among Fundamentalists 31  
Satan among Catholics 34  
Satan and the Left Behind Series 35  
Satan among Liberals 39  
Satan and Ethical Thought 43  

**CHAPTER 2 • The Birth of Satan: A Textual History** 49  
Before Satan’s Conception 51  
Satan’s Conception: The Hebrew Bible 57  
Satan’s Childhood: Babylonian Captivity and Persian Influence 63  
Satan’s Adolescence: The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha 68  
Satan’s Early Adulthood 74  
Clearing through the Muddle 92  
Ethical Concerns 93  

**CHAPTER 3 • Satan through the Ages** 97  
From Hellenistic Syncretism to Christian Exclusivity 102  
Satan’s Army versus the Sword of the Spirit 112  
Jesus Saves! 116  
Wrestling with Tricksters or Demons? A Case Study 118
Contents

Satan Matures in Early Christian Discourse 122
Saint Augustine and the Problem of Evil 126
Conclusion 131

CHAPTER 4 • Satan Comes of Age 133
Greco-Roman Cults and Magicians 136
The Collapse of an Empire 138
Fear and Evil in the Early Medieval Imagination 140
Evil Characters in Medieval Arthurian Literature 145
Satan’s Role in Destruction and the Coming of the Anti-Christ 149
Satan in Dante’s Inferno 154
Medieval Witches 157
The Colonized Other 169

CHAPTER 5 • The Devil Made Me Do It 179
Satan’s Death 182
The Modern Myth of Dr. Faustus 187
Satan’s Resurrection 191
Satan Reimagined from a Liberative Perspective 196
Satan as Trickster? 198
The Ethics of a Christian Trickster 212

Epilogue 217
Notes 223
Bibliography 231
Index 241