

# Contents

## Preface — vii

### Chapter 1 Narrative, Myth, and Religion — 1

- I. Introduction — 1
- II. Tragic Storytelling: Form and Content — 1
- III. Tragic Worlds: Narrating the Athenian Polis — 7
- IV. Euripides' *Alcestis*: Narrative and Interpretation — 15

### Chapter 2 Narrative — 22

- I. Introduction — 22
- II. Death is Death is Death: Narrating a World of Perennial Suffering — 23

### Chapter 3 Myth — 86

- I. Introduction — 86
- II. Mythological Intertextuality: *Alcestis* and Heracles — 88
- III. Prophecy, Theory, Action: The Making of a Hero — 94

### Chapter 4 Religion — 131

- I. Introduction — 131
- II. Death is Death is Life: Eleusinian Orphism and Moral Courage — 135
- III. Death is Death is Life: *Alcestis*, Athens, and Mystical Salvation — 151

## Conclusion — 160

## Bibliography — 164

- I. Abbreviations — 164
- II. Editions & Translations — 164
- III. List of Works Cited — 165

## General Index — 217

## Index of Greek Words — 220

## Index of *Alcestis* Passages — 221

