CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: They Left It Entirely in My Hands ix

Introduction: A Rorschach Test 1

PART ONE

THE POLITICS OF POWER: WHO WATCHES THE WATCHMEN?

1 The Superman Exists, and He’s American: Morality in the Face of Absolute Power 5
   Christopher Robichaud

2 Can We Steer This Rudderless World? Kant, Rorschach, Retributivism, and Honor 19
   Jacob M. Held

3 Super-Vigilantes and the Keene Act 33
   Tony Spanakos

4 Superheroes and Supermen: Finding Nietzsche’s Übermensch in Watchmen 47
   J. Keeping

PART TWO

THE VEIDT PLAN: WATCHMEN AND ETHICS

5 Means, Ends, and the Critique of Pure Superheroes 63
   J. Robert Loftis
CONTENTS

6 The Virtues of Nite Owl’s Potbelly 79
   Mark D. White

7 Rorschach: When Telling the Truth Is Wrong 91
   Alex Nuttall

PART THREE

THE METAPHYSICS OF DR. MANHATTAN

8 Dr. Manhattan, I Presume? 103
   James DiGiovanna

9 A Timely Encounter: Dr. Manhattan and Henri Bergson 115
   Christopher M. Droban

10 Free Will and Foreknowledge: Does Jon Really Know What Laurie Will Do Next, and Can She Do Otherwise? 125
    Arthur Ward

11 I’m Just a Puppet Who Can See the Strings: Dr. Manhattan as a Stoic Sage 137
    Andrew Terjesen

PART FOUR

THIS IS NOT YOUR FATHER’S COMIC BOOK

12 “Why Don’t You Go Read a Book or Something?” 157
   Watchmen as Literature
   Aaron Meskin

13 Watchwomen 173
   Sarah Donovan and Nick Richardson

14 Hooded Justice and Captain Metropolis: The Ambiguously Gay Duo 185
   Robert Arp
CONTENTS

15 What’s So Goddamned Funny? The Comedian and Rorschach on Life’s Way 197
Taneli Kukkonen

CONTRIBUTORS: Who Writes about the Watchmen? 215
INDEX: After the Masquerade 221