In this new introduction to a classic philosophical text, Catherine Wilson examines the arguments of Descartes’s famous Meditations, the book which launched modern philosophy. Drawing on the reinterpretations of Descartes’s thought of the past twenty-five years, she shows how Descartes constructs a theory of the mind, the body, nature, and God from a premise of radical uncertainty. She discusses in detail the historical context of Descartes’s writings, and their relationship to early modern science, and at the same time she introduces concepts and problems that define the philosophical enterprise as it is understood today. Following closely the text of the Meditations and meant to be read alongside them, this survey is accessible to readers with no previous background in philosophy. It is well suited to university-level courses on Descartes, but can also be read with profit by students in other disciplines.

This new series offers introductory textbooks on what are considered to be the most important texts of Western philosophy. Each book guides the reader through the main themes and arguments of the work in question, while also paying attention to its historical context and its philosophical legacy. No philosophical background knowledge is assumed, and the books will be well suited to introductory university-level courses.

Titles published in the series:

**Descartes’s Meditations** by Catherine Wilson
DESCARTES’S
MEDITATIONS

An Introduction

CATHERINE WILSON

University of British Columbia
For my children, Eva and David
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