This book provides a fresh perspective on Athenian democracy by exploring bad citizenship, as both a reality and an idea, in classical Athens, from the late sixth century down to 322 B.C. If called upon, Athenian citizens were expected to support their city through military service and financial outlay. These obligations were fundamental to Athenian understandings of citizenship and it was essential to the city’s well-being that citizens fulfill them. The ancient sources, however, are full of allegations that individuals avoided these duties or performed them deficiently. Claims of draft evasion, cowardice on the battlefield, and avoidance of liturgies and the war tax are common. By examining the nature and scope of bad citizenship in Athens and the city’s responses – institutional and ideological – to the phenomenon, this study aims to illuminate the relationship between citizen and city under the Athenian democracy and, more broadly, the tension between private interests and public authority in human societies.

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To Elizabeth Burch Lambros
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In this book, ancient passages that are cited on specific points are given exempli gratia rather than as comprehensive listings of all testimonia, unless otherwise indicated. Translations in the text are adapted from Collard, Cropp, and Lee (1997); Freeman (1948); Grene (1987); Krentz (1989); MacDowell (1990); Sommerstein (1980–2001); Todd (2000); and the Loeb Classical Library. Chapter 2 is an expanded version of my article “Draft Evasion Onstage and Offstage in Classical Athens,” Classical Quarterly n.s. 54 (2004) 33–57 (Oxford University Press).

Abbreviated references to modern scholarship are to the Bibliography at the end of this book. Abbreviations of periodicals in the Bibliography follow the system of *L'Année philologique*, with a few exceptions: I use *AJP* instead of *AJPh*, *CP* instead of *CPh*, and *TAPA* instead of *TAPhA*. 