# Contents

*List of Figures*  page ix  
*List of Tables*  x  
*Preface and Acknowledgments*  xi  

Introduction: The Sidelong Gaze  1  

1  What Is Envy?  6  
1.1  Introduction: Two Different Green-Eyed Monsters  6  
1.2  Envy and Jealousy as Rivalrous Emotions  8  
1.3  To Lack or to Lose, That Is the Question  11  
1.4  Complications: Ambiguous, Hybrid, and Transitional Scenarios  15  
1.5  What Is Envy, Then? A Definition  20  

2  Varieties of Envy  26  
2.1  Introduction: Envy Is Said in Many Ways  26  
2.2  What Does Envy Do? Leveling Up and Leveling Down  29  
2.3  The Variables of Envy: Focus of Concern and Perceived Obtainability of the Good  37  
2.4  The Varieties of Envy  44  

3  The Value of Envy  66  
3.1  Introduction: Is Envy Guilty as Charged?  66  
3.2  Preliminaries  68  
3.3  “It Should Have Been Me!”  70  
3.4  “It Should Be Me!”  73  
3.5  “It Could Have Been Me!”  76  
3.6  “It Could Be Me!”  79  
3.7  Ontology and Normativity Coming Together  83  
3.8  Emulative Envy as a Virtuous Emotion  85  
3.9  Toward a Theory of Remedies of Envy  92  

4  Love and Envy, Two Sides of the Same Coin  94  
4.1  Introduction: Love Does Not Envy, Or Does It?  94  
4.2  Preliminaries: Love, Envy, and Two Kinds of Incompatibility  96
Contents

4.3 Comparison, Similarity, and Desire for Esteem: Where Love and Envy Thrive 100
4.4 In Praise of Envying the Beloved 110

5 Political Envy 117
5.1 Introduction: Envy as a Political Emotion? 117
5.2 The Rhetoric of Class Envy and Envious Egalitarianism 121
5.3 Envy and Prejudice 131
5.4 Varieties of Political Envy 142
5.5 Taming the Green-Eyed Monsters 148

Conclusion: Envy and Human Goodness 151

Appendix In the Beginning Was Phthonos: A Short History of Envy 161
A.1 Introduction: Envy in Western History of Philosophy 161
A.2 Envy as a Pathos in the Ancient Greek Tradition 163
A.3 Envy as a Sin in Christian and Islamic Thought 177
A.4 Envy in the Modern Era 188
A.5 Envy in John Rawls 208

References 215
Index 234