

Contents

1. beginnings and endings 1

interlude 1: a brief history of death and damnation 15

2. the changing face of death 26

interlude 2: the meaning of death 40

3. kicking the bucket 44

interlude 3: the search for immortality 62

4. death is falling apart 70

interlude 4: the immortals of luggnagg 87

5. losing your marbles 90

interlude 5: the mortal soul 105

6. digital self 115

interlude 6: the fear of death 133

7. cellular death 138

interlude 7: when do we become old? 160

8. aging 165

interlude 8: should death be resisted? 199

9. immortality 208

postscript: and how should we die? 258

references 261

index 270