Contents

Chronology *page* vii

1 Introduction 1

Keywords 2

2 Origins, influences, and early mastery 13

Childhood and early influences 13
First novellas 18
Buddenbrooks: The Decline of a Family 24

3 Artists and outcasts in Mann's early fiction 33

Tonio Kröger 34
Artists, ascetics, and outcasts 37
Marriage and the artist 41
Death in Venice 46

4 From world war to the Weimar Republic 54

Mann's wartime journalism 54
The evolution of Mann's political thought 58
A return to literature 61
The Magic Mountain 63

5 The struggle against National Socialism 73

Joseph and his Brothers 78
Disorder and Early Sorrow and *Mario and the Magician* 85

Lotte in Weimar 91
Transposed Heads and *The Tables of the Law* 96

6 A pact with the devil: *Doctor Faustus* 101

7 Tribulations and final triumphs 113

Mann's last years 113
The Holy Sinner 115
The Black Swan 117
The *Confessions of Felix Krull* 120
Mann's subsequent reception and reputation 123

Notes 128
Suggested further reading 132
Index 135