## CONTENTS

List of tables	Х
List of illustrations	X
Preface	xii
Pronunciation and transliteration of terms	xiv
INTRODUCTION: THE LIFESTORY OF THE BUDDHA	1
Textual sources for the study of the lifestory of the Buddha	4
Lifestory and pilgrimage	5
Lifestory and art	8
Lifestory and ritual	10
Lifestories and buddhology: the development of a Buddha-life blueprint	10
1 PREVIOUS LIVES OF THE BUDDHA	15
Adding karmic depth to the Buddha's lifestory	16
Gautama's path to buddhahood: when does it start?	19
The practice of perfections	27
Gautama's imperfections	32
2 ANCESTRY, BIRTH, AND YOUTH	35
The Śākya lineage	35
The Buddha's birth	38
Prognostications: the signs of the "great man"	41
Upbringing in the palace	43
Turning away from kingship: the beginnings of discontent	46

3	QUEST AND ENLIGHTENMENT	49
	Incitements to leave home	51
	The great departure	53
	The making of a monk	60
	The practice of austerities	62
	The abandonment of austerities	66
	The offering of milk-rice	67
	The defeat of Māra	70
	Enlightenment	73
4	TEACHINGS AND COMMUNITY	77
	The weeks following enlightenment	77
	The First Sermon: the Middle Way and the Four Noble Truths	81
	The Second Sermon at Benares: Non-self and impermanence	84
	Other teachings to the group of five	85
	Further conversions in Benares: Yasa and his family	86
	The return to Magadha: the thirty friends, Uruvilvā Kāśyapa,	88
	King Bimbisāra, and Śāriputra and Maudgalyāyana	91
	The return to Kapilavastu: the conversion of the Śākyas	91
5	DAILY ROUTINES, MIRACLES, AND DISTANT JOURNEYS	100
	Settling down: rules and contentions	101
	The Jetavana Monastery	104
	Daily routine	105
	The Great Miracle at Śrāvastī	107
	The rains-retreat in Trāyastrimśa Heaven	112
	The descent from Trāyastriṃśa Heaven	115
	Distant journeys: the visit to the Northwest	117
	Another distant journey and more demons: the Buddha in Sri Lanka	120
	The journey to Śroṇāparānta: leaving footprints on the way	122
6	FINAL DAYS, THE PARINIRVĀŅA, AND THE NIRVĀŅA OF	125
	THE RELICS	
	The Buddha's last journey	126
	Death-bed deeds	137
	The funeral and cremation	141

The collection and distribution of the relics	144
The life and final extinction of the Dharma and the relics	146
Sources and Further Reading	149
Glossary of Sanskrit names and terms	175
Bibliography	181
Index	193