CONTENTS

Series foreword Acknowledgements	
WHY ATHENA?	ı
INTRODUCING ATHENA	3
Who was Athena?	3
Confronting diversity	5
Athena and her attributes	7
The scope of this book	. 8
Note on spelling and translations	14
KEY THEMES	15
I THE BIRTH OF ATHENA	17
Introduction: hardly a headache	17
Antecedents	19
Capturing the moment	21
Cosmic terror: the Homeric Hymn to Ath	ena 25
The succession myth and the defeat of th	e mother 28
Overview	32
2 TRACING ATHENA'S ORIGINS	33
Introduction: do origins matter?	33

viii CONTENTS

	Athena, matriarchy and the goddess movement	34
	Bachofen and 'mother-right'	37
	'Snake' and 'shield goddess'	38
	Criticising the matriarchy myth	39
	Warrior goddesses of the ancient world: ancestresses of	
	Athena?	4]
	Overview	43
3	FROM ORIGINS TO FUNCTIONS: ATHENA IN THE	
	PANTHEON	45
	Introduction: confronting the pantheon	45
	The 'new way': the functionalist paradigm	46
	Athena and Poseidon: the horse and the sea	47
	Athena and Hephaistos: skilled craft	50
	Athena and Ares: war	54
	Overview: a key to Athena?	58
4	HEROES, HEROINES AND THE TROJAN WAR	59
	Introduction: helping friends, harming enemies	59
	Heroes on quests	61
	Odysseus and Herakles	62
	'The Zeus-born Trojan girl'	68
	Mythic females: helping men, harming women	71
	Overview	72
5	ATHENA IN ATHENS: PATRON, SYMBOL AND 'MOTHER'	74
	Introduction	74
	Athena, Zeus and social cohesion	7€
	Poseidon and the contest for the land	79
	Athena's 'children': the story of the birth of Erichthonios	80
	Overview	90
6	EARLY ATHENIAN HISTORY	92
	Introduction	92
	The 'Mistress of At(h)ana' and the Mycenaean palace	94
	The synoecism	97

	566 and all that: the sixth century	98
	The Persian invasion	102
	Overview	104
7	ALL ABOUT ATHENA? THE CLASSICAL AKROPOLIS	105
	Introduction	105
	After the wars	106
	Unity and imperialism	108
	Prettifying the city: the Parthenon	110
	Overview	120
8	THE WIDER GREEK WORLD	122
	Introduction	122
	Moving beyond Athens	123
	Sparta: the bronze house and the bells	127
	Argos: 'clear-sighted Athena'	128
	Arcadia: a fertility goddess?	130
	Delphi and elsewhere: the conception and protection of	
	children	132
	Assimilations: Anat and Minerva	134
	Overview: a multiplicity of Athenas?	137
ΑT	HENA AFTERWARDS	139
9	FROM BEING TO IMAGE: THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY	
	AND THE POSTCLASSICAL WORLD	141
	Introduction: moving beyond antiquity	141
	From pagan abomination to ethical symbol	142
	Allegory and symbolism	145
	Literary Athenas	149
	Feminism and gender theory	153
	Overview	156
	rther reading	157
Wo	orks cited	162
In	dor	17