Contents

Introduction	1
Chapter 1. Virgil's Aeneid: Marvels, Violence, and Narrative Self-Consciousness	13
Chapter 2. Dante: From Ignorance to Knowledge	37
Chapter 3. The Value of Marvels	65
Chapter 4. Ariosto, Power, and the Desire for Totality	95
Chapter 5. Individuals, Communities, and the Kinds of Marvels Told	123
Chapter 6. A Spenserian Conclusion: Purity and Danger	155
Epilogue	173
Bibliography	177
Index	193