

About this Book xi

- 1 Introduction 1
 - 1 All or Nothing? I
 - 2 Kindness 2
ASIDE: The Two-Million-Dollar Comma 2
ASIDE: Sufficiently Magical Technologies 3
ASIDE: Our Gods 4
 - 3 Cruelty 6
ASIDE: Ghostly Causality 7 ASIDE: Durable Cruelties 8
 - 4 Beginning, Again 14
ASIDE: Chaos Invoked 14
 - 5 The Freedom Not to Choose 15
ASIDE: No Atheists in Foxholes 16
ASIDE: Blake on Firm Perswasion 17
ASIDE: Metafictional Magic: The Writer's Will 19
ASIDE: Shapely Sentences 21
ASIDE: Beckett Meets Twilight Zone, Glass-Half-Full Version 23
- 2 Complex Systems in a Nutshell 25
 - 1 Horror Movie Reboot 25
 - 2 Interpositivity 25
ASIDE: Interpositivity 27
 - 3 Becoming a System 27
 - 4 Creatures of Light 29
ASIDE: Transformative for Whom? 30
ASIDE: Plant Sorcery 31
 - 5 TORNADOS, Whirlpools, and Fires 32
ASIDE: iii 33
ASIDE: Co-evolution 34
 - 6 Leveled 35
ASIDE: On being bom too early and dying too late 36
ASIDE: Up Around the Bend 37
 - 7 A Personifying Universe of Stretchy Things 38
 - 8 Dynamism 40
ASIDE: One Plus One Equals Infinity 41
 - 9 Magic, but No Black Boxes 41
ASIDE: The T-Shirt Version 43
 - 10 Wildness 43
ASIDE: Pet Resemblance via Social Theory 44
- 3 Magic by Example 46
 - 1 Failed Magic: Modernist Heaven (and Hell) 46
 - 2 Placebo Magic 50
ASIDE: Pregnancy via Magic 52

- ASIDE: Following the Scent 53
- 3 Mirror Magic 54
- 4 Biting Game 59
- 5 Dog Whisperer 61
- 6 Conclusion 62
- 4 Future Perfect 63
 - 1 The Gettysburg Address as a Magical Speech Act 63
 - 2 Pool, Poetry, Prose, and Painting 64
ASIDE: Dr. Livingston's Magical Bank-Shot Visualizer 65
 - 3 Meteors, Messiahs, and Migraines 69
ASIDE: On This Rock I Build My Church 69
ASIDE: Falling Off a Log 71
 - 4 Magical Militarism 72
 - 5 Four Asides 74
ASIDE: Dr. Livingston's Time Travel 101 74
ASIDE: A Somewhat Rationalizing Account of Mystical Nonviolence 76
ASIDE: A Somewhat Mysticizing Account of Rationalist Nonviolence 77
ASIDE: Four Scholars 78
- 5 What is Religion? 82
 - 1 A Fuzzy Set 82
 - 2 Magic, Science, and Religion Coevolve 83
 - 3 Restoring the Chaos 84
 - 4 Rain Dance 87
ASIDE: From Flow 89
 - 5 Providence, via Vico 91
ASIDE: Systematizers Systematized 93
- 6 God 3.5B (A Nearsighted Evolutionary Panorama) 97
 - 1 Salience to Sentience 97
 - 2 Primordial Systemhood Membership Narratives 100
ASIDE: Law and Order 101
 - 3 The Myth of the Acquisition-of-Consciousness Moment 103
 - 4 Use of the Terms I and We 104
 - 5 Cis-Systems → Trans-Systems 105
 - 6 First Caveat: Characters 106
 - 7 Plant and Animal Intelligence 107

8	Learning and Evolution from a Systems Perspective	108
9	Second Caveat: Plot	111
10	Especially Informative Postinfundibular Amphioxus Hypothalamus Neuropile	114
11.	The Holy Grail	120
	ASIDE: Neuro-X	121
12	Teamliness	124
	ASIDE: Play and Teamliness	125
	ASIDE: Three-Ring Circuits	126
13	Conclusion	136
7	Blake Magic	138
1	Famous in Heaven	138
	ASIDE: No Success Like Failure	139
2	Blake Magic	140
3	Auguries	143
	ASIDE: Prophecies	145
4	Angel Kings	146
5	Magic in the Current Conjuncture	149
6	Five Asides	154
	ASIDE: An Elegant Pose	157
	ASIDE: Ritual Retraction	158
	ASIDE: Obscurity	160
	ASIDE: Butterfly Tornado	161
	Acknowledgments	165
	References	166
	Index	173