

Contents

Introduction 3

PART I The Rise 15

- 1 · The Disruptive Founder 17
- 2 · Radio Dreams 33
- 3 · Mr. Vail Is a Big Man 45
- 4 · The Time Is Not Ripe for Feature Films 61
- 5 · Centralize All Radio Activities 74
- 6 · The Paramount Ideal 86

PART II Beneath the All-Seeing Eye 99

- 7 · The Foreign Attachment 101
- 8 · The Legion of Decency 115
- 9 · FM Radio 125
- 10 · We Now Add Sight to Sound 136

PART III The Rebels, the Challengers, and the Fall 157

- 11 · The Right Kind of Breakup 159
- 12 · The Radicalism of the Internet Revolution 168
- 13 · Nixon's Cable 176
- 14 · Broken Bell 187
- 15 · Esperanto for Machines 196

PART IV Reborn Without a Soul 205

16 · Turner Does Television 207

17 · Mass Production of the Spirit 217

18 · The Return of AT&T 238

PART V The Internet Against Everyone 255

19 · A Surprising Wreck 257

20 · Father and Son 269

21 · The Separations Principle 299

Acknowledgments 321

Notes 323

Index 355