CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ix

Imaging Punishment: An Introduction 1

Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., and Austin Sarat

PART I. THE POPULARITY OF PUNISHMENT

1. Redeeming the Lost War: Backlash Films and the Rise of the Punitive State 23

Lary May

2. Better Here than There: Prison Narratives in Reality Television 55

Aurora Wallace

PART II. POPULAR CULTURE’S CRITIQUE OF PUNISHMENT

3. The Spectacle of Punishment and the “Melodramatic Imagination” in the Classical-Era Prison Film: I Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang (1932) and Brute Force (1947) 79

Kristen Whissel

4. “Deserve Ain’t Got Nothing to Do with It”: The Deconstruction of Moral Justifications for Punishment through The Wire 117

Kristin Henning

5. Rehabilitating Violence: White Masculinity and Harsh Punishment in 1990s Popular Culture 161

Daniel LaChance

PART III. THE RECEPTION AND IMPACT OF PUNISHMENT IN POPULAR CULTURE

6. Scenes of Execution: Spectatorship, Political Responsibility, and State Killing in American Film 199

Austin Sarat, Madeline Chan, Maia Cole, Melissa Lang, Nicholas Scholnik, Jasjaap Sidhu, and Nica Siegel
7. The Pleasures of Punishment: Complicity, Spectatorship, and Abu Ghraib 236
   Amy Adler

8. Images of Injustice 257
   Brandon L. Garrett

About the Contributors 287
Index 289