CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS xiii

INTRODUCTION
“The Darkened Eye Restored”: Notes Toward a Literary History of Black Women xv

PART ONE

INTRODUCTION
Meditations on History: The Slave Woman’s Voice 3

HARRIET JACOBS
“The Perils of a Slave Woman’s Life” from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1860) 16

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTES 68

PART TWO

INTRODUCTION
Uplifting the Women and the Race:
The Forerunners—Harper and Hopkins 73

FRANCES ELLEN WATKINS HARPER
“Iola” from *Iola Leroy* (1892) 87

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTES 106

PAULINE E. HOPKINS
“Sappho” from *Contending Forces* (1900) 109

“Bro’r Abr’m Jimson’s Wedding: A Christmas Story” (1901) 130

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTES 147
FANNIE BARRIER WILLIAMS

"The Colored Girl" (1905) 150

PART THREE

INTRODUCTION
The Mulatta Trap: Nella Larsen’s Women of the 1920s 159

MARITA O. BONNER

"On Being Young—a Woman—and Colored" (1925) 168

NELLA LARSEN

"Helga Crane" from Quicksand (1928) 174

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTES 231

PART FOUR

INTRODUCTION
"I Love the Way Janie Crawford Left Her Husbands": Zora Neale Hurston’s Emergent Female Hero 237

ZORA NEALE HURSTON

"His Over-the-Creek-Girl" from Jonah's Gourd Vine (1934) 255

"Janie Crawford" from Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937) 280

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTES 290

PART FIVE

INTRODUCTION
"Infidelity Becomes Her": The Ambivalent Woman in the Fiction of Ann Petry 297
## CONTENTS

### ANN PETRY

“Mamie” from *The Narrows* (1953) 307

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTES 341

**INTRODUCTION**

I Sign My Mother’s Name: Maternal Power in Dorothy West’s Novel, *The Living Is Easy* 344

### DOROTHY WEST

“Cleo” from *The Living Is Easy* (1948) 354

“My Mother, Rachel West” (1982) 381

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTES 383

### PART SIX

**INTRODUCTION**

“Taming All That Anger Down”: Rage and Silence in the Writing of Gwendolyn Brooks 387

### GWENDOLYN BROOKS

“The Courtship and Motherhood of Maud Martha” from *Maud Martha* (1953) 406

“The Rise of Maud Martha” (1955) 429

“Afterword” to *Contending Forces* (1968) 433

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTES 437

INDEX 439