Toni Morrison
AND THE BIBLE

Contested Intertextualities

EDITED BY
Shirley A. Stave

PETER LANG
New York • Washington, D.C./Baltimore • Bern
Frankfurt am Main • Berlin • Brussels • Vienna • Oxford
CONTENTS

Acknowledgments vii

Introduction
Shirley A. Stave 1

1 Trial by Fire:
The Theodicy of Toni Morrison in Sula
Beverly Foulks 8

2 Toni Morrison’s Beloved:
Psalm and Sacrament
Nancy Berkowitz Bate 26

3 To Live This Life Intensely and Well:
The Rebirth of Milkman Dead in
Toni Morrison’s Song of Solomon
David Z. Wöhner 71

4 Intimate Fatality:
Song of Solomon and the Journey Home
Beth Benedix 94

5 The Bible as Intertext in Toni Morrison’s Novels
Ágnes Surányi 116

6 The “Female Revealer” in Beloved, Jazz and Paradise:
Syncretic Spirituality in Toni Morrison’s Trilogy
Sharon Jessee 129

7 Mythopoetic Syncretism in Paradise and
the Deconstruction of Hospitality in Love
Benjamin Burr 159

8 Jazz Funerals and Mourning Songs:
Toni Morrison’s Call to the Ancestors in Sula
Anissa Janine Wardi 175
Contents

9 A New World Religion? Creolisation and Candomblé in Toni Morrison’s *Paradise*
   Jennifer Terry 192

10 The Master’s Tools: Morrison’s *Paradise* and the Problem of Christianity
   Shirley A. Stave 215

11 Ritual and “Other” Religions in *The Bluest Eye*
   Rebecca Degler 232

List of Contributors 257