Contents

Acknowledgements | ix

Introduction: Maternal Literatures in Text and Tradition: Daughter-Centric, Matrilineal, and Matrifocal Perspectives | 1
ELIZABETH PODNIEKS AND ANDREA O'REILLY

Part 1: Maternal Absence

1. Aberrant, Absent, Alienated: Reading the Maternal in Jane Urquhart's First Two Novels, The Whirlpool and Changing Heaven | 31
MYRL COULTER

2. Motherless Daughters: The Absent Mothers in Margaret Atwood | 47
NANCY PELED

3. Writing about Abusive Mothers: Ethics and Auto/biography | 63
KATE DOUGLAS

4. "Red Mother": The Missing Mother Plot as Double Mystery in Louise Erdrich's Fiction | 79
SHEILA HASSELL HUGHES

5. "This was her punishment": Jew, Whore, Mother in the Fiction of Adele Wiseman and Lilian Nattel | 95
RUTH PANOFSKY
CONTENTS

Part 2: Maternal Ambivalence

6. Eden Robinson’s “Dogs in Winter”: Parodic Extremes of Mothering | 111
   NATHALIE FOY

7. Subverting the Saintly Mother: The Novels of Gabrielle Poulin | 125
   KATHLEEN KELLETT-BETSOS

8. "Opaque with confusion and shame": Maternal Ambivalence in Rita Dove’s Poetry | 141
   ELIZABETH BEAULIEU

   DENYS LANDRY

10. We Need to Talk about Gender: Mothering and Masculinity in Lionel Shriver’s We Need to Talk about Kevin | 169
    EMILY JEREMIAH

Part 3: Maternal Agency

    JOANNE S. FRYE

12. The Motherhood Memoir and the “New Momism”: Biting the Hand That Feeds You | 203
    ANDREA O’REILLY

13. “I had to make a future, willful, voluble, lascivious”: Minnie Bruce Pratt’s Disruptive Lesbian Maternal Narratives | 215
    SUSAN DRIVER

14. Lesbian Mothering in Contemporary French Literature | 227
    GILL RYE

15. But She’s a Mom! Sex, Motherhood, and the Poetry of Sharon Olds | 241
    RITA JONES
16. (Grand)mothering "Children of the Apocalypse": A Post-postmodern Ecopoetic Reading of Margaret Laurence's *The Diviners* | 253
DI BRANDT

Part 4: Maternal Communication

NICOLE WILLEY

18. Mother to Daughter: Muted Maternal Feminism in the Fiction of Sandra Cisneros | 287
RITA BODE

19. *Cracking (Mother)* India | 303
TANJA STAMPFL

20. Asian American Mothering in the Absence of Talk Story: *Obasan* and *Chorus of Mushrooms* | 317
ANNE-MARIE LEE-LOY

ELIZABETH PODNIEKS

22. Revelations and Representations: Birth Stories and Motherhood on the Internet | 351
KIM HENSYE OWENS

Coda: "Storiés to Live By": Maternal Literatures and Motherhood Studies | 367
ANDREA O’REILLY

Notes on the Contributors | 375

Index | 379