### Contents

*Acknowledgements* viii  
*Preface* ix  

**Introduction: Unravelling the Knot** 1  
1 'The White Hush between Two Sentences': The Traumatic Ambivalence of Whiteness in *Wide Sargasso Sea* 25  
2 Keeping History Safe 41  
3 'Caught Between Ghosts of Whiteness': The Other Side of the Story 60  
4 *Lucy*: Jamaica Kincaid's Postcolonial Echo 72  
5 The Search for a Voice 86  
6 'The Sea Is History' 105  
7 'Knots of Death': Toni Morrison's *Sula* 114  
8 Ambivalent Maternal Inheritances 129  
9 The 'Gift for Metaphor' 142  

**Conclusion: A Meditation on Silence** 160  

*Notes* 173  
*Bibliography* 205  
*Index* 220