Contents

List of illustrations vi
Acknowledgements vii

Introduction 1

PART I
Natural and material mobilities 11
1 The binding mobilities of consumption 13
2 Iconic islands: nature, landscape, and the tropical tourist gaze 36
3 Tasting the Tropics: from sweet tooth to banana wars 71

PART II
Bodies and cultural hybridities 105
4 Orienting the Caribbean: when East is West 107
5 Eating others: of cannibals, vampires, and zombies 143
6 Creolization in global culture 174

Appendix 204
Notes 207
Bibliography 222
Index 243
Illustrations

Plates

2.1 Representing the uses of ‘nature’ in the contact zone 41
2.2 Staging the sugary scene of mastery 49
2.3 Tropical Edenism as ‘renaturalisation’ 55
2.4 Armchair adventure 56
2.5 Kodakable Caribbean 67
3.1 Refusing the bitter chalice of slavery 90
3.2 Ethical eating as bourgeois family ritual 91
3.3 Cannibalism in reverse? 92
3.4 The banana-boats come ‘home’ 98
4.1 Planter tropicalization as domestic corruption 117
4.2 The European engulfed by tropical luxury 120
4.3 Paton’s mahogany-skinned ‘Aryan kinswoman’ 127
4.4 Returning the tourist gaze? 129
4.5 Absent presence in the photographic archive 130
4.6 ‘Darkest Africa’ discovered in Dominica 137
5.1 Consuming cannibals: who ate whom? 143
5.2 Embodied tourism as the sexualisation of children 161
5.3 Freud’s fruit: the banana boy 162

Map

0.1 Map of the Caribbean 6