

# Contents

General Editor's Preface	ix
Acknowledgements	xi
Introduction	1

## Part I Writing and Sexual Difference

1. Poetry and Politics: Cixous and her Critics	13
• Setting the scene	19
• Derrida	23
• Lacan	26
• Writing the body: <i>écriture féminine</i>	28
• An avant-garde feminist?	37
2. The Major Concepts	43
• Sexual difference	47
• The other bisexuality	50
• The feminine libidinal economy	51
• The gift	53
• The feminine	56
• Fidelity	59
• The third body	62
• Laughter	65
• Death	67
• <i>L'écriture féminine</i> – writing the body	70
• The Other	73
• Love	75

## Part II Undoing the Law: Reading with Cixous

3. Feminine Writing and Sexual Difference: James Joyce	81
• Modernism and libidinal writing	86
• A mollycixous drag act	90

• Critical slips	92
• The singer and the song	95
• Yes	100
4. The Moment of the Third Body: Virginia Woolf and <i>The Waves</i>	103
• Perception and time	104
• Thinking responsively	108
• Waves of becoming	112
• The third body	116
• The poetics of matter	120
5. Libidinal Education: Lispector and Cixous	125
• 'Nature'	128
• The materiality of the non-human	133
• Ugliness	138
• The unbearable slowness of becoming	143
• A floribunda writing	145
6. The Question of Transgression: Angela Carter	150
• Spectres of negation	156
• Love of/as difference	165
• In praise of a writing of tolerance	170
 <b>Part III Writing, Theory and Beyond</b>	
7. Where Do We Go from Here? (Moving towards Freedom)	177
• The descent into freedom, or, against transcendence	178
• Foundations, roots, writing	188
• The (un)decidable foundations of sexual difference	194
• Joy	199
Notes	201
Annotated Bibliography	212
References	220
Index	233