

## Contents

*Preface* vii

### I. *Tradition*

1. Erotic Literature as a Field of Study:  
Canonical Thematics 1
2. Conversation and Confession:  
The Secrets of Femininity 32
3. Number and Singularity 54

### II. *Gradation*

4. Toward the Learner-Centered Boudoir 71
5. Measured Pastimes, Graded Narratives 92
6. Taking Sade Serially:  
*Les Cent Vingt Journées de Sodome* 120
7. How Not to Be Murdered in Sadian Stories 147

### III. *The Time of Desire*

8. Degrees of Virginitly 169
9. On Being Erotically Disposed:  
Posture and the Modeling of Desire 206

10. Classical Poise: Thematic Modeling in  
*L'Image and Histoire d'O* 226

*Conclusion* 258

*Notes* 269

*Bibliography* 289

*Index* 305