

# Contents

Acknowledgments vii

Preface: Dancing between Two Realms ix

Introduction: There's a Little Wheel a Turnin' in My Heart: Cultural Concentricities and Enduring Identities 1

## Part 1. Ancestral Echoes Positing a Spiritual Frame

1. I's Got the Blues: Malochia, Magic, and the Descent into Madness in *The Bluest Eye* 27
2. Always: The Living Ancestor and the Testimony of Will in *Sula* 49

## Part 2. Psychic Domains and Spiritual Locations

3. I've Got a Home in Dat Rock: Ritual and the Construction of Family History in *Song of Solomon* 69
4. Dancing with Trees and Dreaming of Yellow Dresses: The Dilemma of Jadine in *Tar Baby* 97
5. In(her)iting the Divine: (Consola)tions, Sacred (Convent)ions, and Mediations of the Spiritual In-between in *Paradise* 119

## Part 3. Remembrance Has Not Left Us: What the Record Shows

6. Living with the Dead: Memory and Ancestral Presence in *Beloved* 145
7. Tracing Wild's Child Joe and Tracking the Hunter: An Examination of the Òrìsà Ochossi in *Jazz* 168
8. If I'd a Knowed More, I Would a Loved More: Toni Morrison's *Love* and Spiritual Authorship 189

Glossary 201

Notes 211

Works Cited 225

Index 239