Contents

Foreword vii
Preface ix
Acknowledgments xv
Permissions xvi

Introduction: Gods and Mysteries: The Revival of Paganism and the Remaking of Mythography through the Nineteenth Century 1

1 A Myth Appropriated: Greek Persephone to Romantic Proserpine 25

2 Marriage by Capture and the Captive Wife in Jean Ingelow and Dora Greenwell 43

3 Proserpine and Pessimism: Goddesses of Death, Life, and Language from Swinburne to Wharton 55

4 The Virgin with the Sheaf: Fertility, Ritual, and Imagination in Tess of the d’Urbervilles and My Ántonia 85

5 “I am Koré”: The Modernist Underworld and the Rising Persephone 109

Appendix A: The Sinister Influence: Causes of Fin-de-Siècle Pessimism 137
Appendix B: Proserpine: A Bibliography, compiled by Yisrael Levin 139
Works Cited 143
Index 157