## Contents

Preface 9

Acknowledgments 13

- 1. Women and Comedy in Eighteenth-Century England 15
- Defiant Laughter: Mary Wollstonecraft and Feminist Humor 37
- 3. From Inside Jokes to Published Comedy 55
- 4. Comedy in Manners: Making Fun of the Angel in the House 83
- 5. Mocking the "Lords of Creation": Male Comic Characters 111
- 6. The Limits of Sisterhood: Satirizing Women 143
- 7. Goblin Laughter: Violent Comedy and the Condition of Women 189

Notes 221

Works Cited 241

Index 253