contents

one	Does Literature Matter! 1
two	"A Professor and a Man and a Writer" 23
three	Varieties of Liberal Imagination 37
four	Isaac Babel and the Rabbis 71
five	A Syllabus of Terrors 91
six	"Howl" and the Visionary Gleam 111
seven	The Affirming Self 129
eight	The Reader as Hero 151
	Acknowledgments 169
	Index 171