Contents

Abbreviations for Works by Toni Morrison vii

Introduction 1

1. From Witnessing to Death Dealing: On Speaking of and for the Dead 28

2. Burnt Offerings: Law and Sacrifice 76

3. Time Out of Joint: The Temporal Logic of Morrison's Modernist Apocalyptics 120

4. Beginnings and Endings, Part One: Old Languages/New Bodies 158

5. Beginnings and Endings, Part Two: The Poetics of Similitude and Disavowal at Utopia's Gates 188

Epilogue 216

Notes 253

Bibliography 285

Index 301