## Contents

	Preface	xi	
	Acknowledgments	xviii	
	List of Illustrations	xxix	
PART ONE The approach, 1925–1959			
I	Grantham 'Mahogany and child'	3	
2,	Scholarship girl 'You're thwarting my ambition'	22	
3	Love and war at Oxford 'Is it marble, Margaret?'	40	
4	Essex girl 'What a pity such a charming girl should be lost to politics!'	66	
5	Dartford and romance 'I think we are both getting very fond of one another'	84	
6	Marriage, the law and Finchley 'The necessary fervour'	115	
PART TWO			
	Parliament, 1959–1979		
7	Member, minister 'She's trouble. What can we do to keep her busy?'	143	
8	Opposition, 1964–1970 'Running out of other people's money'	173	
9	Milksnatcher 'The Most Unpopular Woman in Britain'	211	
10	Who Governs Britain? 'The extreme left is well in command'	229	

II	The gelding and the filly 'Heath will murder you'	266
12	The Iron Lady 'It is a moral struggle'	296
13	Trapped in moderation 'She does not lead and manage her Shadow Cabinet'	334
14	Labour Isn't Working 'I know what. You tell me how'	364
15	May 1979 'There's only one chance for a woman'	393
	PART THREE	
	Power, 1979–1982	
16	Downing Street 'They thought she was a sort of right-wing baboon'	419
17	'Cuts' 'I asked for too little, didn't I?'	455
18	Our doubts are traitors 'I cannot play Sister Bountiful'	482
19	Not for turning 'They are all against me, Robert. I can feel it'	519
20	Russia and Reagan 'The only European leader I know with balls'	552
21	Hunger in Ireland 'The lady behind the veil'	587
2.2	The 1981 Budget and beyond 'We've got to move fast to save her'	623
23	The Falklands invasion 'The worst moment of my life'	656
24	Victory 'I don't think anyone else but you could	
	have done it'	705
	Notes	759
	Bibliography	815
	Index	822