



Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction:

Elaine Showalter, The Feminist Critical Revolution 3

I. What Do Feminist Critics Want?

The Academy and the Canon 19

Carolyn G. Heilbrun, Bringing the Spirit Back to English Studies 21

Sandra M. Gilbert, What Do Feminist Critics Want? A Postcard from
the Volcano 29

Annette Kolodny, A Map for Rereading: Gender and the Interpretation of
Literary Texts 46

Nina Baym: Melodramas of Beset Manhood: How Theories of American
Fiction Exclude Women Authors 63

Jane P. Tompkins, Sentimental Power: *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and the
Politics of Literary History 81

Lillian S. Robinson, Treason Our Text: Feminist Challenges to the
Literary Canon 105

II. Feminist Criticisms and Women's Cultures 123

Elaine Showalter, Toward a Feminist Poetics 125

Annette Kolodny, Dancing Through the Minefield: Some Observations on
the Theory, Practice, and Politics of a Feminist Literary Criticism 144

<i>Barbara Smith</i> , Toward a Black Feminist Criticism	168
<i>Deborah E. McDowell</i> , New Directions for Black Feminist Criticism	186
<i>Bonnie Zimmerman</i> , What Has Never Been: An Overview of Lesbian Feminist Criticism	200
<i>Rosalind Coward</i> , Are Women's Novels Feminist Novels?	225
III. Women's Writing and Feminist Critical Theories	241
<i>Elaine Showalter</i> , Feminist Criticism in the Wilderness	243
<i>Rachel Blau DuPlessis</i> , For the Etruscans	271
<i>Susan Gubar</i> , "The Blank Page" and the Issues of Female Creativity	292
<i>Alicia Ostriker</i> , The Thieves of Language: Women Poets and Revisionist Mythmaking	314
<i>Nancy K. Miller</i> , Emphasis Added: Plots and Plausibilities in Women's Fiction	339
<i>Ann Rosalind Jones</i> , Writing the Body: Toward an Understanding of 'Écriture féminine	361
Bibliography	379
Notes on the Contributors	401