

Contents

Preface

ix

One / A SKETCH IN PROGRESS
Introducing the Mother without Child

i

Two / NOT A SYNTHETIC MATERNITY
Jane Rule's Fiction

28

Three / CLAIMING THE MONSTROSITY IN ALICE WALKER'S
MERIDIAN

63

Four / WHAT IF YOUR MOTHER NEVER MEANT TO?
The Novels of Louise Erdrich and Michael Dorris

115

Five / MOTHERS YESTERDAY AND MOTHERS TOMORROW, BUT
NEVER MOTHERS TODAY

Woman on the Edge of Time and *The Handmaid's Tale*

158

Six / FAY WELDON'S MAD DOLLS

184

Epilogue / FEMINISM IS [NOT] A LUXURY

224

Notes

239

Index

277