## Contents

General Editor's Preface	vii
Preface	ix
Note on Editions	xiii
1 Introduction	1
The Background to Contemporary Feminism	1
Contemporary Feminism: The Woman's View of the	-
World	2
<b>Contemporary Feminism and Female Experience</b>	5
Feminism and Literature	7
Contemporary Women's Writing	11
2 Versions of the Real	15
Contemporary Uses of Realism	15
Margaret Drabble: Modifications of Realism.	
The Waterfall and The Realms of Gold	18
Drabble: Novelist of Women's Experience	22
Drabble and Feminism. The Middle Ground	24
Anita Brookner. Providence and Hotel du Lac	30
A.S. Byatt. Still Life	34
3 Fiction and Sexual Politics	42
Personal and Political	42
Zoe Fairbairns: A Feminist Dystopia. Benefits	44

Pat Barker: Modified Realism. Union Street and	
The Century's Daughter	47
Fay Weldon: Feminist Satire. Down Among the Women	51
Weldon: Novels of the 1980s. Puffball and Leader of the	
Band	55
4 Myths, Dreams and Nightmares	61
Beyond Everyday Reality	61
Angela Carter's Early Work. The Magic Toyshop	63
Carter's Rewriting of Fairy-Tales. The Bloody Chamber	68
Carter's Female Comedy. Nights at the Circus	72
Emma Tennant. The Bad Sister and Queen of Stones	75
Sara Maitland. Virgin Territory	80
Alice Thomas Ellis. The Sin Eater and The Birds of the	
Air	85
Conclusion	91
Bibliography	93
Biographical Information	<sup>-</sup> 99
Index	105