

Contents

Preface	
BEN SIEGEL	7
Introduction: A Brief Overview of the Recent American Novel	
MELVIN J. FRIEDMAN	9
<i>Part 1: Using Tradition—Southern, Jewish, European</i>	
Baroque Catholicism in Southern Fiction: Flannery O'Connor, Walker Percy, and John Kennedy Toole	
MICHAEL PATRICK GILLESPIE	25
Voices Interior and Exterior: William Styron's Narrative Personae	
JAMES L. W. WEST III	48
Simply Not a Mandarin: Saul Bellow as Jew and Jewish Writer	
BEN SIEGEL	62
Jewish Jacobites: Henry James's Presence in the Fiction of Philip Roth and Cynthia Ozick	
MARK KRUPNICK	89
The Metamorphosis of the Classics: John Barth, Philip Roth, and the European Tradition	
CLAYTON KOELB	108
<i>Part 2: Reality's Voices and Languages</i>	
Origins, Language, and the Constitution of Reality: Norman Mailer's <i>Ancient Evenings</i>	
JAMES M. MELLARD	131
Toward a New American Mainstream: John Updike and Kurt Vonnegut	
JEROME KLINKOWITZ	150
Writing as Witnessing: The Many Voices of E. L. Doctorow	
SUSAN BRIENZA	168

Panoramic, Unpredictable, and Human: Joyce Carol Oates's Recent Novels LINDA WAGNER-MARTIN	196
Women's Life-Writing and the Minority Voice: Maya Angelou, Maxine Hong Kingston, and Alice Walker SUZETTE A. HENKE	210
 Part 3: <i>Hopes, Dreams, and Desperation</i>	
Desperate Hopes, Desperate Lives: Depression and Self-Realization in Jamaica Kincaid's <i>Annie John</i> and <i>Lucy</i> JAMES NAGEL	237
Fundamentalist Views and Feminist Dilemmas: Elizabeth Dewberry Vaughn's <i>Many Things Have Happened Since He Died</i> and <i>Break the Heart of Me</i> GLORIA L. CRONIN	254
Dreams and Nightmares: "High-Tech Paranoia" and the Jamesonian Sublime—An Approach to Thomas Pynchon's Postmodernism ELAINE SAFER	279
Lingering Hopes, Faltering Dreams: Marilynne Robinson and the Politics of Contemporary American Fiction THOMAS SCHAUB	298
List of Contributors	322
Index	327