

Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xvii
INTRODUCTION	1

PART I: AFRICA

WEST AFRICA

Amos Tutuola	
<i>From My Life in the Bush of Ghosts</i>	12
Chinua Achebe	
1: <i>From Arrow of God</i>	15
2: <i>From What Has Literature Got to Do with It?</i>	21
3: <i>From Anthills of the Savannah</i>	26
Christopher Okigbo	
Siren Limits	30
Wole Soyinka	
1: Abiku	33
2: <i>From The Lion and the Jewel</i>	34
Buchi Emecheta	
<i>From The Joys of Motherhood</i>	44
Niyi Osundare	
Harvestcall	50
Ben Okri	
Incidents at the Shrine	52
Ama Ata Aidoo	
1: The Message	60
2: Motherhood and the Numbers Game	66

EAST AFRICA

Okot p'Bitek	
<i>From Song of Lawino</i>	68
Ngugi wa Thiong'o	
1: <i>From A Grain of Wheat</i>	73
2: <i>From Decolonising the Mind</i>	79

M. G. Vassanji	
Leaving	83
Abdulrazak Gurnah	
<i>From Paradise</i>	88

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Nadine Gordimer	
Six Feet of the Country	96
Athol Fugard with John Kani and Winston Ntshona	
<i>From Sizwe Bansi is Dead</i>	104
Lauretta Ngcobo	
<i>From And They Didn't Die</i>	111
Mbulelo Mzamane	
My Cousin Comes to Jo'burg	117
J. M. Coetzee	
<i>From Foe</i>	123
Bessie Head	
<i>From A Question of Power</i>	131
Tsitsi Dangarembga	
<i>From Nervous Conditions</i>	137

NORTH AFRICA

Jamal Mahjoub	
<i>From Navigation of a Rainmaker</i>	145

PART II: AUSTRALIA

Charles Harpur	
A Mid-Summer Noon in the Australian Forest	150
Marcus Clarke	
<i>Preface to Poems of the Late Adam Lindsay Gordon</i>	151
Adam Lindsay Gordon	
The Sick Stockrider	154
Henry Kendall	
The Last of His Tribe	157
A. B. 'Banjo' Paterson	
The Man from Snowy River	158
Henry Lawson	
1: The Drover's Wife	162
2: Middleton's Rouseabout	168
Mary Gilmore	
Old Botany Bay	169
Bernard O'Dowd	
Australia	170

'Steele Rudd' (Arthur Hoey Davis)	
Starting the Selection	171
Barbara Baynton	
The Chosen Vessel	173
Miles Franklin	
<i>From My Brilliant Career</i>	178
'Henry Handel Richardson' (Ethel Florence Lindesay Robertson)	
<i>Proem to Australia Felix</i>	185
Kenneth Slessor	
1: South Country	192
2: The Night Ride	192
A. D. Hope	
Australia	193
James McAuley	
Terra Australis	194
Christina Stead	
The Schoolboy's Tale: Day of Wrath	195
Patrick White	
1: The Prodigal Son	196
2: <i>From The Tree of Man</i>	200
Judith Wright	
Train Journey	207
Ray Lawler	
<i>From Summer of the Seventeenth Doll</i>	208
Alan Seymour	
<i>From The One Day of the Year</i>	218
Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker)	
We Are Going	223
Gwen Harwood	
Suburban Sonnet	224
Peter Porter	
Phar Lap in the Melbourne Museum	225
Les Murray	
1: Blood	226
2: Quintets for Robert Morley	228
Bruce Dawe	
1: Life-Cycle	229
2: Homecoming	231
Dorothy Hewett	
<i>From Testament</i>	232
David Williamson	
<i>From The Club</i>	233
Peter Carey	
'Do You Love Me?'	244
John Tranter	
<i>From The False Atlas</i>	252

Murray Bail	
The Drover's Wife	255
Frank Moorhouse	
The Drover's Wife	259
Barbara Jefferis	
The Drover's Wife	265
Mudrooroo Narogin (Colin Johnson)	
They Give Jacky Rights	273
Jack Davis	
From Kullark	273
Helen Garner	
The Life of Art	279
Robert Drewe	
Stingray	284
Sally Morgan	
A Black Grandmother	288
Kate Grenville	
From Joan Makes History	294
Tim Winton	
Neighbours	298
David Malouf	
From Remembering Babylon	301

PART III: CANADA

Frances Brooke	
From The History of Emily Montague	310
Major John Richardson	
From Wacousta	312
Catharine Parr Traill	
From The Backwoods of Canada	314
Sara Jeannette Duncan	
From The Imperialist	319
Bliss Carman	
Low Tide on Grand Pré	321
Stephen Leacock	
From Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town	322
Emily Carr	
From Klee Wyck	326
E. J. Pratt	
From Brébeuf and His Brethren	331
Sinclair Ross	
From As for Me and My House	334
Hugh MacLennan	
From Barometer Rising	338

Elizabeth Smart	
<i>From</i> By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept	343
Earle Birney	
1: Bushed	345
2: Mappemounde	346
James Reaney	
Maps	347
Al Purdy	
1: Elegy for a Grandfather	348
2: Roblin's Mills	349
Eli Mandel	
'Grandfather's Painting': David Thauberger	351
George Bowering	
Grandfather	352
Margaret Laurence	
<i>From</i> The Diviners	353
Margaret Atwood	
1: Progressive Insanities of a Pioneer	356
2: <i>From</i> Survival: A Thematic Guide to Canadian Literature	359
3: The Age of Lead	362
4: Morning in the Burned House	373
Gwendolyn MacEwen	
<i>From</i> Terror and Erebus	374
Robertson Davies	
<i>From</i> Fifth Business	376
Phyllis Webb	
Marvell's Garden	381
Robert Kroetsch	
1: Stone Hammer Poem	383
2: <i>From</i> The Moment of the Discovery of America Continues	387
Alice Munro	
The Photographer	392
Ruby Wiebe	
Where is the Voice Coming From?	400
Alistair MacLeod	
As Birds Bring Forth the Sun	407
Audrey Thomas	
<i>From</i> Intertidal Life	412
Daphne Marlatt	
<i>From</i> Ana Historic	415
Timothy Findley	
<i>From</i> Lemonade	416
Thomas King	
The One about Coyote Going West	420
Jeannette C. Armstrong	
This Is a Story	428

Bonnie Burnard	
Music Lessons	433
Susan Swan	
<i>From</i> The Biggest Modern Woman of the World	437
George Elliott Clarke	
How Exile Melts to One Hundred Roses	443
Aritha van Herk	
<i>From</i> No Fixed Address	444
Evelyn Lau	
<i>From</i> Fresh Girls	447

PART IV: CARIBBEAN

C. L. R. James	
<i>From</i> Beyond a Boundary	452
Louise Bennett	
Dear Departed Federation	456
Jean Rhys	
1: The Day They Burned the Books	457
2: I Used to Live Here Once	462
V. S. Reid	
<i>From</i> New Day	463
Roger Mais	
<i>From</i> Brother Man	468
George Lamming	
1: <i>From</i> In the Castle of My Skin	472
2: <i>From</i> The Pleasures of Exile	477
Sam Selvon	
<i>From</i> The Lonely Londoners	482
V. S. Naipaul	
1: Man-man	483
2: <i>From</i> A House for Mr Biswas	488
Derek Walcott	
1: Ruins of a Great House	498
2: <i>From</i> Dream on Monkey Mountain	500
3: <i>From</i> The Muse of History	512
4: <i>From</i> Omeros	519
Wilson Harris	
1: <i>From</i> Palace of the Peacock	524
2: <i>From</i> Tradition and the West Indian Novel	532
Denis Williams	
<i>From</i> Other Leopards	537
The Mighty Sparrow (Slinger Francisco)	
Dan is the Man in the Van	543

(Edward) Kamau Brathwaite	
1: Ananse	545
2: Negus	548
3: <i>From History of the Voice</i>	550
Mervyn Morris	
1: The Pond	554
2: Narcissus	554
Michael Gilkes	
<i>From Prospero's Island</i>	555
Earl Lovelace	
<i>From The Dragon Can't Dance</i>	556
Erna Brodber	
<i>From Jane and Louisa Will Soon Come Home</i>	560
Zee Edgell	
<i>From Beka Lamb</i>	565
Jamaica Kincaid	
In the Night	569
Olive Senior	
Summer Lightning	572
Lorna Goodison	
I Am Becoming My Mother	579
John Agard	
Mek Four	579
Valerie Bloom	
Language Barrier	580
Grace Nichols	
One Continent/To Another	582
Jean 'Binta' Breeze	
Spring Cleaning	583

PART V: NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH PACIFIC

Katherine Mansfield	
The Garden Party	588
Mary Ursula Bethell	
Pause	599
R. A. K. Mason	
On the Swag	599
A. R. D. Fairburn	
1: Imperial	600
2: Tapu	602
Robin Hyde	
The Last Ones	602

xii • Contents

Allen Curnow	
1: House and Land	603
2: Landfall in Unknown Seas	604
James Baxter	
1: On the Death of Her Body	607
2: Jerusalem Sonnet, I	607
3: The Ikons	608
Hone Tuwhare	
Speak to Me, Brother	609
Frank Sargeson	
I've Lost My Pal	611
Janet Frame	
<i>From Faces in the Water</i>	614
Witi Ihimaera	
1: The Whale	620
2: This Life is Weary	627
Albert Wendt	
1: A Resurrection	636
2: Towards a New Oceania	641
Keri Hulme	
<i>From The Bone People</i>	652
Patricia Grace	
<i>From Potiki</i>	660
Epeli Hau'ofa	
The Seventh and Other Days	665
Bill Manhire	
<i>From South Pacific</i>	669
Subramani	
Marigolds	675

PART VI: SOUTH ASIA

INDIA

Mulk Raj Anand	
<i>From Untouchable</i>	684
R. K. Narayan	
<i>From The Man-Eater of Malgudi</i>	688
Raja Rao	
<i>From Kanthapura</i>	696
Attia Hosain	
Gossamer Thread	703
Nissim Ezekiel	
1: Background, Casually	708
2: The Patriot	710

Dom Moraes	
Sinbad	711
A. K. Ramanujan	
Small-Scale Reflections on a Great House	712
Jayanta Mahapatra	
Grandfather	715
Kamala Das	
An Introduction	717
Keki Daruwalla	
Death of a Bird	718
Nayantara Sahgal	
Martand	720
Anita Desai	
<i>From In Custody</i>	725
Eunice De Souza	
1: Marriages Are Made	734
2: Women in Dutch Paintings	735
Salman Rushdie	
<i>From Midnight's Children</i>	735
Amitav Ghosh	
<i>From The Shadow Lines</i>	741
Vikram Seth	
<i>From A Suitable Boy</i>	747
Agha Shahid Ali	
1: Postcard from Kashmir	752
2: A Wrong Turn	752
Sujata Bhatt	
A Different History	753
Meena Alexander	
House of a Thousand Doors	754
Githa Hariharan	
The Remains of the Feast	755

SRI LANKA

Patrick Fernando	
The Fisherman Mourned by His Wife	761
Yasmine Gooneratne	
1: Big Match, 1983	762
2: This Language, This Woman	764
Punyakante Wijenaikē	
<i>From Giraya</i>	765
Lakdasa Wikkramasinha	
Don't Talk to Me about Matisse	771
Jean Arasanayagam	
Passages	772

xiv • Contents

Rajiva Wijesinha <i>From Days of Despair</i>	774
Richard De Zoysa Apocalypse Soon	778
Shyam Selvadurai <i>From Funny Boy</i>	780

BANGLADESH

Kaiser Haq A Myth Reworked	784
--------------------------------------	-----

PAKISTAN

Ahmed Ali <i>From Twilight in Delhi</i>	786
Bapsi Sidhwa <i>From Ice-Candy-Man</i>	790
Alamgir Hashmi 1: So What If I Live in a House Made by Idiots? 2: Inland	798 798

PART VII: SOUTH-EAST ASIA ---

MALAYSIA

Lloyd Fernando <i>From Scorpion Orchid</i>	802
Lee Kok Liang Five Fingers	809
Ee Tiang Hong 1: Heeren Street, Malacca 2: Arrival	812 813
Wong Phui Nam Prospect in Spring	814
Mohamad Bin Haji Salleh Do Not Say	814
K. S. Maniam <i>From The Return</i>	816
Shirley Geok-lin Lim 1: Christmas in Exile 2: On Reading Coleridge's Poem	822 822

SINGAPORE

Edwin Thumboo Gods Can Die	823
--------------------------------------	-----

Lee Tzu Pheng	
Excluding Byzantium: On Objections to Living Near a Home for the Elderly Sick	824

Philip Jeyaretnam	
Making Coffee	825

THE PHILIPPINES

Nick Joaquin	
<i>From The Woman Who Had Two Navels</i>	829

THAILAND

S. P. Somtow	
<i>From Jasmine Nights</i>	834

PART VIII: TRANS-CULTURAL WRITING

Louise Bennett	
Colonisation in Reverse	844
Sam Selvon	
Working the Transport	845
Ruth Praver Jhabvala	
Myself in India	849
Zulfikar Ghose	
1: This Landscape, These People	856
2: The Attack on Sialkot	858
V. S. Naipaul	
<i>From A Way in the World</i>	860
Anne Ranasinghe	
At What Dark Point	865
Joy Kogawa	
<i>From Obasan</i>	867
Daphne Marlatt	
Arriving at Shared Ground Through Difference	874
Bharati Mukherjee	
Loose Ends	875
Yasmine Gooneratne	
Bharat Changes His Image	883
Rienzi Cruz	
Roots	892
Michael Ondaatje	
1: <i>From Running in the Family</i>	892
2: <i>From In the Skin of a Lion</i>	894

xvi • *Contents*

Linton Kwesi Johnson	
Doun de Road	897
David Dabydeen	
Two Cultures	898
Salman Rushdie	
<i>From Imaginary Homelands</i>	899
Fred D'Aguiar	
Letter from Mama Dot	902
M. Nourbese Philip	
She Tries Her Tongue: Her Silence Softly Breaks	904
Caryl Phillips	
<i>From Crossing the River</i>	905
Rohinton Mistry	
Squatter	907
FURTHER READING	926
AUTHOR INDEX	930
TITLE INDEX	933