Contents

Acknowledgments ix Introduction: Raising the Dead 1

PART ONE Imaginative Places, White Spaces: If Only the Dead Could Speak

- 1 Death and the Nation's Subjects 13
- 2 Bakulu Discourse: Bodies Made "Flesh" in Toni Morrison's Beloved 41
- **3** Telling the Story of Genocide in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Almanac of the Dead* 68

PART TWO Dead Bodies, Queer Subjects

- **4** (Pro)Creating Imaginative Spaces and Other Queer Acts: Randall Kenan's *A Visitation of Spirits* and Its Revival of James Baldwin's Absent Black Gay Man in *Giovanni's* Room 103
- 5 "From This Moment Forth, We Are Black Lesbians": Querying Feminism and Killing the Self in Consolidated's Business of Punishment 124
- 6 Critical Conversations at the Boundary between Life and Death 149

EPILOGUE "I'm in the Zone": Bill T. Jones, Tupac Shakur, and the (Queer) Art of Death 175

Notes 183 Selected Bibliography 209 Index 227