

CONTENTS

PREFACE ix

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS xv

Introduction 1

THE MODERN ELEGY 1

SOCIAL MOURNING AND POETIC MOURNING 10

GENRE, HIGH MODERNISM, PSYCHOANALYSIS 23

1 *Thomas Hardy* 33

ELEGIES FOR AN ERA: "BY THE CENTURY'S DEATHBED" 36

POEMS OF 1912-13 AND OTHER ELEGIES FOR EMMA 47

2 *Wilfred Owen* 69

3 *Wallace Stevens* 87

HARMONIUM: MOCKERIES AND PATHETIC FALLACIES 90

WAR ELEGIES 106

SELF-ELEGIES: MAKING ALPHA OF OMEGA 119

4 *Langston Hughes* 135

AFRICAN-AMERICAN ELEGY AND THE BLUES 135

BLUES POEMS 143

MONOLOGUES ON MORTALITY 158

LYNCH POEMS 167

5 *W. H. Auden* 176

ELEGY AND IMITATION 176

SELF-ELEGIES: "NOW FOR OBLIVION" 204

6 *American Family Elegy I* 216

ROBERT LOWELL 226

JOHN BERRYMAN 241

ALLEN GINSBERG 247

MICHAEL HARPER 254

Contents

7	<i>Sylvia Plath</i>	262
	“DADDY, I HAVE HAD TO KILL YOU”	266
	SELF-ELEGIES: THE ART AND TRADE OF DYING	(283)
8	<i>American Family Elegy II</i>	293
	ANNE SEXTON	299
	ADRIENNE RICH	310
	AMY CLAMPITT	322
9	<i>Seamus Heaney</i>	334
	CODA	361
	NOTES	367
	INDEX	405