CONTENTS

Acknowledgments vii
Introduction 1

PART I
Theories of Autobiography 7

1. Authorizing the Autobiographical 10
Shari Benstock

2. Women's Autobiographical Selves: Theory and Practice 34
Susan Stanford Friedman

3. My Statue, My Self: Autobiographical Writings of Afro-American Women 63
Elizabeth Fox-Genovese

4. Simone de Beauvoir: Aging and Its Discontents 90
Kathleen Woodward

5. Invincible Mediocrity: The Private Selves of Public Women 114
Jane Marcus

6. Eighteenth-Century Women's Autobiographical Commonplaces 147
Felicity A. Nussbaum

PART II
Autobiographical Practices 173

7. Female Rhetorics 177
Patricia Meyer Spacks
8. Pedagogy as Self-Expression in Mary Wollstonecraft: Exorcising the Past, Finding a Voice 192
   Mitzi Myers

9. Representing Two Cultures: Jane Austen’s Letters 211
   Deborah Kaplan

10. Dorothy Wordsworth’s Journals: Putting Herself Down 230
    James Holt McGavran, Jr.

11. Charlotte Forten Grimké and the Search for a Public Voice 254
    Joanne M. Braxton

12. “Wider Than the Sky”: Public Presence and Private Self in Dickinson, James, and Woolf 272
    Nancy Walker

Note on the Contributors 305

Index 309