# **Contents**

Preface by Kay Eldredge Salter · xi

#### WHY I WRITE · 1

Some for Glory, Some for Praise  $\cdot$  3

## ON OTHER WRITERS · 9

The Writing Teacher · 11

Odessa. Mon Amour · 15

Like a Retired Confidential Agent, Graham Greene Hides Quietly in Paris · 25

An Old Magician Named Nabokov Lives and Writes in Splendid Exile · 31

From Lady Antonia's Golden Brow Springs Another Figure of History · 37

Ben Sonnenberg Jr. · 41

ife for Author Han Suyin Has Been a Sometimes Hard But Always Many Splendored Thing · 43

D'Annunzio, the Immortal Who Died · 49

viii CONTENTS

## WEST POINT AND BEYOND · 67

Cool Heads · 69

An Army Mule Named Sid Berry Takes

Command at the Point · 72

Ike the Unlikely · 78

#### MEN AND WOMEN · 91

Younger Women, Older Men · 93

Karyl and Me · 105

When Evening Falls · 109

Talk of the Town on Bill Clinton · 115

#### ON THE EDGE · 117

The Definitive Downhill: Toni Sailer · 119

At the Foot of Olympus: Jarvik, Kolff, and DeVries · 125

Man Is His Own Star: Royal Robbins · 138

## THE ROCK AND THE HARD PLACE · 153

Racing for the Cup · 155

Getting High · 164

The Alps · 181

Offering Oneself to the Fat Boys · 183

## THE LIFE · 187

Passionate Falsehoods · 189

The First Women Graduate · 208

FRANCE · 223

Almost Pure Joy · 225

Eat, Memory · 232

Paris Nights · 236

Chez Nous · 240

## ASPEN · 247

Once and Future Queen · 249

They Call It Paradise · 254

Snowy Nights in Aspen · 267

Notes from Another Aspen · 271

## WRITING AND WHAT'S AHEAD · 275

Once Upon a Time, Literature. Now What? · 277

Words' Worth · 282

Acknowledgments · 289
Index · 293