

Contents

Acknowledgements	viii
1 Introduction: British Working-Class Fiction and the Struggle Against Work	1
2 Between Capitalist Subsumption and Proletarian Independence: Alan Sillitoe, David Storey and the Post-War Working Class	11
2.1 From consensus to antagonism, or, the post-war rebirth of subjectivity	11
2.2 From the factory to the social: Alan Sillitoe's proletarian subjects	19
2.3 Capitalist subjectivation in David Storey's <i>This Sporting Life</i>	36
3 Reproductive Work and Proletarian Resistance in Transition: Nell Dunn and Pat Barker	49
3.1 Desire and the labour of subjectivity: On Nell Dunn's proletarian women	49
3.2 Reproduction in revolt: Pat Barker's <i>Union Street</i>	63
3.3 Prostitution, death and the subversion of life in <i>Blow Your House Down</i>	76
4 Beyond Civil Society: Proletarian Exodus in James Kelman and Irvine Welsh	87
4.1 The collapse of measure: Postmodern abstraction and proletarian flight in James Kelman	88
4.2 Beyond civil society: On Irvine Welsh's <i>Skagboys</i>	110
5 Work in Crisis: Precarious Subversions in Monica Ali and Joanna Kavenna	133
5.1 Untamed bodies, fleeing minds: Monica Ali's <i>In the Kitchen</i>	135
5.2 'Madness, the absence of work': On Joanna Kavenna's <i>Inglorious</i>	157
6 Conclusion	171
Bibliography	179
Index	187