

# The Wallace Effect

*David Foster Wallace and  
the Contemporary Literary  
Imagination*

*Marshall Boswell*

BLOOMSBURY ACADEMIC  
NEW YORK • LONDON • OXFORD • NEW DELHI • SYDNEY

# CONTENTS

*Series Editor's Introduction* ix

Introduction 1

## PART ONE Toward Wallace

- 1 **Something Both and Neither:** Marshes, Marriage, and the Fertile Invention of John Barth's *The Tidewater Tales* 15
- 2 **The Awful Way Back to We:** Crackpot Realism and Ironic Liberalism in Richard Powers's *Prisoner's Dilemma* 37

## PART TWO The Wallace Effect

- 3 **The Rival Lover:** David Foster Wallace and the Anxiety of Influence in Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Marriage Plot* 61
- 4 **The Varieties of Irony:** Claire Messud's *The Emperor's Children* and the Comedy of Redemption 81
- 5 **Competitive Friendship:** Love and Reckoning in Jonathan Franzen's *Freedom* 101

**6 Against Wallace: Amy Hungerford, Lauren Groff,  
and the Resistance to Genius 125**

Conclusion: Love and Cruelty 149

*Acknowledgments* 153

*Bibliography* 155

*Index* 163