## Contents

List of Figures		ix
	knowledgements	x
In	roduction	1
	The Politics of Literacy	8
	Education	10
	The Female Reader	12
	Women's Books	16
	This Book	21
1	Gendering the English Reformation: The Vernacular Reader in Anne Askew's <i>Examinations</i> and Katherine Parr's <i>Lamentacion of</i>	
	a Synner	25
	Anne Askew and the Femininity of Protestant Polemic	34
	Katherine Parr and the 'ignoraunce of her blind life'	44
	The Monument of Matrones	52
	Conclusion	55
2	Dorothy Leigh, the 'Labourous Bee,' and the Work of Literacy in	
	Seventeenth-Century England	57
	Maternal Reading Instruction	59
	The Labour of Reading	62
	The Gender(ed) Politics of Puritan Reading	68
	The Maternal Voice in English Politics	75
	Conclusion	80
3	A 'Wit's Camelion': Elizabeth Grymeston and the Catholic Reader	83
	Catholic Mothers and Readers	86
	Anne Cornwallis's Commonplace Book	91
	Grymeston and the Commonplace	98
	Grymeston's Reader: Thomas Chaffyn	102
	The Voice at the Priest Hide	106
	Conclusion	111
4	Reading the Passion Among Women: Aemelia Lanyer and	
	Elizabeth Middleton	115
	Lanyer's Desiring Female Readers	120
	The Power of the Passion	129
	Elizabeth Middleton's 'Free Guifte'	135
	Conclusion	144

'Onely a Cipher': Reading and Writing Secrets in Lady Mary Wroth's	
The Countess of Montgomery's Urania	145
Melasinda's Dainty Cabinet	147
Reading Pamphilia's Ciphers	152
History in Fiction: Wroth and her Readers	160
Conclusion	165
Selected Bibliography	
Index	181