

# CONTENTS

Foreword ix

*Beverly Guy-Sheftall*

Introduction: Black Women's Studies and the Intellectual Legacy—A  
Praise Song 1

## Part 1. A Birthing of Self 13

1. Psychic Rage and Response: The Enslaved and the Enslaver in  
Sherley Anne Williams's *Dessa Rose* 17  
*Emma Waters-Dawson*
2. Voyages Beyond Lust and Lactation: The Climacteric as Seen in  
Novels by Sylvia Wynter, Beryl Gilroy, and Paule Marshall 32  
*Janice Lee Liddell*
3. A Woman's Art; A Woman's Craft: The Self in Ntozake Shange's  
*Sassafras, Cypress, and Indigo* 46  
*Carol Marsh-Lockett*
4. Coming Home to Herself: Autonomy and Self-Conversion in Flora  
Nwapa's *One Is Enough* 58  
*Australia Tarver*

## Part 2. Relationships: Mothering, Mistressing, Marrying, and Woman-to-Woman—Disengaging the Family Romance 000

5. When Difference Is Not the Dilemma: The Black Woman Couple in  
African American Women's Fiction 75  
*Yakini B. Kemp*
6. "Devouring Gods" and "Sacrificial Animals": The Male-Female  
Relationship in Ama Ata Aidoo's *Changes: A Love Story* 92  
*Wei-hsiung (Kitty) Wu*
7. Snapshots of Childhood Life in Jamaica Kincaid's Fiction 103  
*Brenda F. Berrian*

8. Fire and Ice: The Socioeconomics of Romantic Love in Elizabeth Nunez-Harrell's *When Rocks Dance* 117  
*Thelma B. Thompson-Deloatch*

**Part 3. War on All Fronts: Race, Class, Sex, Age,  
and Nationality 131**

9. Agents of Pain and Redemption in Sapphire's *Push* 135  
*Janice Lee Liddell*
10. Romantic Love and the Individual in Novels by Mariama Bâ, Buchi Emecheta, and Bessie Head 147  
*Yakini B. Kemp*
11. The Politics of Exile: Ama Ata Aidoo's *Our Sister Killjoy* 162  
*Gay Wilentz*
12. "Sense Make Befoh Book": Grenadian Popular Culture and the Rhetoric of Revolution in Merle Collins's *Angel* and *The Colour of Forgetting* 176  
*Carolyn Cooper*

**Part 4. Invention and Convention: Womanist Gazes on Literary and  
Critical Traditions 189**

13. Meditations on Her/Story: Maryse Conde's *I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem* and the Slave Narrative Tradition 193  
*Paula C. Barnes*
14. Guyana's Historical Sociology and the Novels of Beryl Gilroy and Grace Nichols 205  
*Erna Brodber*
15. Textual Deviancy and Cultural Syncretism: Romantic Fiction as a Subversive Strain in Africana Women's Writing 219  
*Jane Bryse and Kari Dako*
16. "A Girl Marries A Monkey": The Folktale as an Expression of Value and Change in Society 230  
*N. J. Opoku-Agyemang*
17. Revolutionary Brilliance: The Afrofemcentric Aesthetic 239  
*Zain A. Muse (Omisola Alleyne)*

Contributors 255

Index 259