Contents

Illustrations xiii

Foreword, miriam cooke xv

Acknowledgments xix

Contributors xxi

Introduction: Contemporary Arab Women's Autobiographical Writings

NAWAR AL-HASSAN GOLLEY xxv

Artistic Works Discussed xxxv

PART ONE

Autobiographical Writings and Cultural Hybridity

1. Passage Through the Harem: Historicizing a Western Obsession in Leila Ahmed's A Border Passage: From Cairo to America—a Woman's Journey

BERNADETTE ANDREA 3

2. Dismembering the Gaze: Speleology and Vivisection in Assia Djebar's L'amour, la fantasia

KARINA EILERAAS 16

3. Yasmina, an Autodiegetic Character: Herstory and History BENAOUDA LEBDAI 35

PART TWO

Autobiographical Writings and Transnationalism

4. Poetic Geographies: Interracial Insurgency in Arab American Autobiographical Spaces

KEITH FELDMAN 51

5. Postnational Ethics, Postcolonial Politics: Raimonda Tawil's My Home, My Prison

JAMIL KHADER 71

6. A Muslim Woman Writes Back: Leila Abouzeid's
Return to Childhood: The Memoir of a Modern Moroccan Woman
PAULINE HOMSI VINSON 90

PART THREE

Autobiographical Writings and Communal Identity

- 7. Voices Across the Frontier: Fatima Mernissi's Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood FILIZ TURHAN-SWENSON 111
- 8. To Undo What the North Has Done: Fragments of a Nation and Arab Collectivism in the Fiction of Ahdaf Soueif MRINALINI CHAKRAVORTY 129
- Weaving Poetic Autobiographies: Individual and Communal Identities in the Poetry of Mohja Kahf and Suheir Hammad CAROL FADDA-CONREY 155

PART FOUR

The Personal and the Political in Autobiographical Writings

- 10. Arab Women Write the Trauma of Imprisonment and Exile DAPHNE M. GRACE 181
- 11. A Journey of Belonging: A Global(ized) Self Finds Peace

 NAWAR AL-HASSAN GOLLEY AND AHMAD AL-ISSA 201
- 12. Art, Autobiography, and the Maternal Abject
 MIREILLE ASTORE 222

References 241

Index 259