

Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction When Do We Read? 1

The Shortness of Time 1 / The Tense of Reading 9 / Literature as Resistance 12
The Difference Time Makes 14 / Media History as Literary Method 23

1 Time Divided 33

No Difference 33 / Talbot's Lack of Time 38 / Breaking the Weekly Round 43
Some Sunday Readers 49 / Sir Charles Comes and Goes 57

2 Joining Up Time 64

Rereading for Happiness 64 / Slow Translation 67
Grenville's Reading Journals 75 / Lifetimes of Reading 83

3 Other Times 92

Reading in the Field 92 / Linear and Random Access 95
Literature and Contingency 99 / *Amelia's* Beginning with the End 106
Sidney Bidulph and the Twice-Told Marriage 110 / The Griffiths' Marriage by the Book 115

4 Time to Come 122

Stockpiling 122 / Romantic Media 126 / *A Simple Story*: Reading Comes Later 130
Godwin: The Future Is Now 138 / Hardcover Truths 144 / You Can't Skip Pages 149

Coda Academic Time 153

Notes 159

Works Cited 173

Index 189