

Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	1
Saintly Mothers and Erotic Women	3
1 Maternity and Sexuality: Pirandello's Constant Obsessions	25
Luigi's Father, Mother, and the Women in His Life	27
Fictional Mothers: "Una Costruzione Irriducibile"	35
Pirandello as Mother of All Mothers	53
2 Pasolini's Poetry: A Dialogue with the Mother	59
Mothers, the Primitive, the Sacred	61
Poetry, Susanna, and Mary	62
Vile and Servile Mothers	69
Pier Paolo and Peppino	72
3 Carlo Levi and the Great Mother	81
The Great Mother: The <i>Indistinto Originario</i>	85
Amanti, Mothers, and Narcissi	90
Portraits of Mother and Father	94
4 Dino Buzzati: The Mother and the Witches	105
The Novels/Romanzi	109
Some Short Stories	122
Drawings and Paintings	125
<i>Poema a fumetti</i> (Poem Strip)	130
5 Fellini, or Cinema as Woman	145
The Mother: Ida/Rome/Giulietta/the Earth Mother	145
Bernhard, Jung, and <i>Il libro dei sogni</i>	150

“Whore, Devil, Evil, Destroyer, Disease, Witch, and Temptation”	160
Homoeroticism	164
Cinema as Woman	167
6 Filming the <i>Vitelloni</i>	177
“Non sei nessuno, non siete nessuno tutti” (Fellini’s <i>I vitelloni</i>)	178
“Che resti tra noi” (Germi’s <i>Signore e Signori</i>)	183
“Ma perché non siamo nati tutti finocchi?” (Monicelli’s <i>Amici miei</i>)	187
“Ma quando i miei non mi mantengono più . . . che cazzo faccio?” (Moretti’s <i>Ecce Bombo</i>)	192
“Non bastano tutti i cammelli del deserto per comprare un amico” (Salvatores’s <i>Marrakech Express</i>)	197
“Non ci sarà più via d’uscita a parte la fuga” (Muccino’s <i>L’ultimo bacio</i>)	200
Epilogue	211
Works Cited	215
Index	225
About the Author	237