

Contents

Introduction	1
I. Adolescent Heroines in the Late Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries	13
The Cult of Virginity	13
The Cult of True Womanhood	20
The New Woman	34
II. Autonomy and Sexuality: Willa Cather's <u>The Song of the Lark</u> and Edith Wharton's <u>Summer</u>	47
III. The Burden of the Past: Ellen Glasgow's <u>The Sheltered Life</u> and Katherine Anne Porter's "Old Mortality"	67
IV. The Girl as Freak: Initiation in the Fiction of Carson McCullers and Jean Stafford	89
V. The Divided Self: Shirley Jackson's <u>Hangsaman</u> and Sylvia Plath's <u>The Bell Jar</u>	115
Conclusion	143
Bibliography	161