

Contents

I Introduction

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| 1 The uses of melodrama | 3 |
| 2 Balzac and the reading public | 17 |

II Transformations

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 3 Chance and reality | 41 |
| 4 Connection and totality | 61 |
| 5 Antithesis and ambiguity | 90 |
| 6 Surface and depth | 112 |
| 7 Beyond pastoral | 129 |
| 8 Type and transgression | 147 |

III Conclusion

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 9 The official history and the secret history | 173 |
| Notes | 188 |
| Select bibliography | 199 |
| Index | 201 |