

Acknowledgments	IX
CHERYL A. WALL	I
Introduction: Taking Positions and Changing Words	
MAE GWENDOLYN HENDERSON	16
Speaking in Tongues: Dialogics, Dialectics, and the Black Woman Writer's Literary Tradition	
VALERIE SMITH	38
Black Feminist Theory and the Representation of the "Other"	
BARBARA CHRISTIAN	58
But What Do We Think We're Doing Anyway: The State of Black Feminist Criticism(s) or My Version of a Little Bit of History	
DEBORAH E. McDOWELL	75
Reading Family Matters	
CLAUDIA TATE	98
Allegories of Black Female Desire; or, Rereading Nineteenth-Century Sentimental Narratives of Black Female Authority	
HORTENSE J. SPILLERS	127
'The Permanent Obliquity of an In(pha)llibly Straight': In the Time of the Daughters and the Fathers	
GLORIA T. HULL	150
Living on the Line: Audre Lorde and <i>Our Dead Behind Us</i>	
SUSAN WILLIS	173
I Shop Therefore I Am: Is There a Place for Afro-American Culture in Commodity Culture?	

v i i i
CONTENTS

ABENA P. A. BUSIA	196
What Is Your Nation?: Reconnecting Africa and Her Diaspora through Paule Marshall's <i>Praisesong for the Widow</i>	
Notes	213
List of Contributors	241
Index	245