

Contents

Introduction: Poiesis as Rhetorical Criticism	1
The Legitimacy of Reading	2
Intentionality: Writing Rites, Speaking Rights	11
The Ethics of Interpretation: Genealogy and Gender	21
Modern Rhapsody: Phenomenological Hermeneutics	36

Part I: (Fe)male Authority

1. Experiments in Living	47
A Nostalgia for Utopia	47
Authority in Crisis: The Threat of Female Emancipation	54
2. The Female Landscape	69
Bodybuilders: Architectural Thought and the Experience of Human Space	69
Journey into Foreign Parts	74
Home and Woman's Body	77
Colonising Women	85
3. Degenerate Bastards	90
A Touchstone of Authority	91
Wounding the Family Name	105
Hymenal Transgressions	118
4. Blood and Suicide: The Death of the Author?	129
The Imagination of Women: Angels, Women, Poets	131
Authorisation of Christian Men	136

Authority and Infidelity: Writing as (Male) Therapy	140
Herbert as Heretic	145

Part II: ~~Natural~~ Authority

5. The Theatre of Indeterminacy	159
Nature: Tragedy. Comedy: Language	159
The Crisis in Tragedy Averted	164
Adulterate 'Nature' and Critical Interpretation	174
6. The Impossibility of Authenticity	192
Civil Authority: Gender, Genealogy, Nationalism	192
Play's the Thing: The Demise of Epistemology and the Triumph of Hedonism	208
Play in Plain Style	222

Part III: Novel Authorities

7. Enthusiastic Carnal Knowledge	231
Media Studies	231
Evil Optimism: The Denial of the Historical Body	233
Literary History: Tradition, Modernity, the Body	237
8. Betraying the Text	241
Camera Obscura: The Human's Room	241
Criticism Is Fundamental to Modernity	244
Betraying the Name of the Father	253
Criticism: Heresy. Poetry: Feminism	259
9. Experiments in Writing	265
Adultery in the Novel	265
Dialogue and Duplicity in the Novel	267
Critical Novel: Degeneric Authority	271
Adultery in Criticism	276
Notes	283
Index	305