

Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	ix
INTRODUCTION "THE YEARS TEACH MUCH . . ."	xi
1 Safe at Last	1
2 Healing Fictions	23
3 John Updike: Rabbit Angstrom Grows Up	59
4 Ugly Ducklings and Swans: Margaret Drabble's Fable of Progress	85
5 Anne Tyler: The Tears (and Joys) Are in the Things	105
6 Saul Bellow: Inward and Upward, Past Distraction	120
7 In Defense of Midlife Progress Narratives	146
INDEX	173