Contents

PROEM:
   Postmodernism (Again) 1

INTRODUCTION:
   Literary Generations in the Postmodern Period 7

CHAPTER 1. Fantasy and Reality in Rachel Ingalls’s *Mrs. Caliban* 30

CHAPTER 2. Colonized Tongue, Colonized Pen:
   Heritage and Deracination in Alice Walker’s “Everyday Use” 39

CHAPTER 3. Braid of Blood: Michael Dorris’s
   *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water* 53

CHAPTER 4. Matriarchal Mythopoesis:
   Gloria Naylor’s *Mama Day* 64

CHAPTER 5. The Jeffersonian Vision in Steve Erickson’s *Arc d’X* 81

CHAPTER 6. Passionate Pathography:
   Narrative as Pharmakon in Richard Powers’s
   *Operation Wandering Soul* 91

CHAPTER 7. Anger, Anguish, and Art: Chuck Palahniuk’s *Choke* 107

CHAPTER 8. The Aim Was Song: Ann Patchett’s *Bel Canto* 124
CONTENTS

CHAPTER 9. The Sorrows of Young Icarus:  
Mark Z. Danielewski’s *House of Leaves*  
146

CHAPTER 10. Thirteen Ways of Looking:  
Jennifer Egan’s *A Visit from the Goon Squad*  
175

CONCLUSION:  
The Emperor Writes Back  
192

Notes  
201

Bibliography  
227

Index  
243