## DARWIN'S PLOTS

## Evolutionary Narrative in Darwin, George Eliot and Nineteenth-Century Fiction

Second Edition

GILLIAN B-EER



## Contents

For	reword by George Levine	page ix
Pre	face to the first edition	XV
Pre	eface to the second edition	xvii
Int	troduction	1
	I The remnant of the mythical	1
	II 'The second blow'	8
	III Problems of knowledge	14
Pa	art I. Darwin's language	23
1.	'Pleasure like a tragedy': imagination and the material w	orld 25
2.	Fit and misfitting: anthropomorphism and the natural or	der 44
Pa	art II. Darwin's plots	71
3.	Analogy, metaphor and narrative in The Origin	73
4.	Darwinian myths	97
	I Growth and its myths	97
	II Growth and transformation	99
	III Transformation, retrogression, extinction:	
	Darwinian romance	114
Pa	art III. Responses: George Eliot and Thomas Hard	<b>dy</b> 137
5.	George Eliot: Middlemarch	139
	I The vital influence	139
	II Structure and hypothesis	148
	III The web of affinities	156
6.	George Eliot: Daniel Deronda and the idea of a future life	169

viii	Contents	
7.	Descent and sexual selection: women in narrative	196
8.	Finding a scale for the human: plot and writing in Hardy's novels	220
Note Selec Inde	ct bibliography of primary works	242 267 273