

# **Motherlands**

**Black Women's Writing  
from Africa, the  
Caribbean and South  
Asia**

**Susheila Nasta, editor**



**The Women's Press**

## Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix
<i>Preface</i>	
An extract from 'Discourse on the Logic of Language'	
Marlene Nourbese Philip	xi
<i>Introduction</i>	
Susheila Nasta	xiii
<b>Breaking the Silence: New Stories of Women and Mothers</b>	
<i>Stories of Women and Mothers: Gender and Nationalism in the Early Fiction of Flora Nwapa</i>	
Elleke Boehmer	3
<i>The Untold Story and the Retold Story: Intertextuality in Post-Colonial Women's Fiction</i>	
Judie Newman	24
<i>Searching Voices: Anita Desai's Clear Light of Day and Nayantara Sahgal's Rich Like Us</i>	
Shirley Chew	43
<i>'Something Ancestral Recaptured': Spirit Possession as Trope in Selected Feminist Fictions of the African Diaspora</i>	
Carolyn Cooper	64
<i>Rebellious Women: Fictional Biographies – Nawal el Sa'adawi's Woman at Point Zero and Mariama Bâ's So Long a Letter</i>	
Abena Busia	88
<i>'Dangerous Knowledge' and the Poetics of Survival: A Reading of Our Sister Killjoy and A Question of Power</i>	
Caroline Rooney	99
<b>Mothers/Daughters/Sisters?</b>	
<i>Mothers or Sisters? Identity, Discourse and Audience in the Writing of Ama Ata Aidoo and Mariama Bâ</i>	
C L Innes	129
<i>The Search For Freedom in Indian Women's Writing</i>	
Ranjana Ash	152

**'Heaven Lies beneath her Feet'? Mother Figures in Selected Indo-Anglian Novels**

Helen Kanitkar	175
<i>Motherhood as a Metaphor for Creativity in Three African Women's Novels: Flora Nwapa, Rebeka Njau and Bessie Head</i>	
Jane Bryce-Okunlola	200
<i>'The Bloodstream of Our Inheritance': Female Identity and the Caribbean Mothers'-Land</i>	
Ann R Morris and Margaret M Dunn	219
<i>Mothertongue Voices in the Writing of Olive Senior and Lorna Goodison</i>	
Velma Pollard	238

**Absent and Adopted Mother(land)s**

<i>Family Connections: Mother and Mother Country in the Fiction of Jean Rhys and Jamaica Kincaid</i>	
Laura Niesen de Abrunã	257
<i>Absent Mother(Land)s: Joan Riley's Fiction</i>	
Isabel Carrera Suárez	290
<i>Adopted Motherlands: The Novels of Marjorie Macgoye and Bessie Head</i>	
Valerie Kibera	310
<i>Mother/lands: Self and Separation in the Work of Buchi Emecheta, Bessie Head and Jean Rhys</i>	
Elaine Savory Fido	330
<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	350
<i>Select Bibliography</i>	355
<i>Index</i>	359