MOTHER PUZZLES

DAUGHTERS AND MOTHERS IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN LITERATURE

Edited by Mickey Pearlman

Contributions in Women's Studies, Number 110

GREENWOOD PRESS

New York • Westport, Connecticut • London

Contents

1. Introduction 1
MICKEY PEARLMAN

2. Anna's Quotidian Love: Sue Miller's *The Good Mother* 11
ROBERTA WHITE

3. Learning to Love Mother: Candace Flynt's *Mother Love* 23
KAREN ALKALAY-GUT

4. "A child of anxious, not proud, love": Mother and Daughter in Tillie Olsen's "I Stand Here Ironing" 35
HELEN PIKE BAUER

5. Breaking the Silence: Marilyn French's *Her Mother's Daughter* 41
MARY ROSE SULLIVAN

6. Escaping the Mirror of Sameness: Marilynne Robinson's *Housekeeping* 49
PHYLLIS LASSNER

7. A Mother's Story in a Daughter's Life: Gail Godwin's *A Southern Family* 59
KIM LACY ROGERS

8. The Difficult Journey Home: Mona Simpson's *Anywhere but Here* 67
DEBORAH DENENHOLZ MORSE

9. Secrets Left to Tell: Creativity and Continuity in the Mother/Daughter Dyad 77
MARTHA M. VERTREACE

10. The Displaced Balance: Mary Gordon's *Men and Angels* 91
ELLEN MACLEOD MAHON

11. Mother, Daughter, Self: Joan Vinge's *The Snow Queen* 101
C. W. SULLIVAN III

12. "I Thought You Were Mine": Marsha Norman's *'night, Mother* 109
SALLY BROWDER

13. Jewish Mothers' Stories: Rosellen Brown's *The Autobiography of My Mother* 115
DEE SELIGMAN

14. Powerful and Powerless: Paradox in Vivian Gornick's *Fierce Attachments* 123
PEARL DAVID LAUFER

15. Tasting Stars: The Tales of Rabbi Nachman in Anne Roiphe's *Lovingkindness* 131
CAROLE MCKEWIN WEAVER

16. Paralyzed in the Present: Susan Fromberg Schaeffer's Mothers, or Daughters 141
KATHERINE K. GOTTSCHALK

17. To Embrace Dead Strangers: Toni Morrison's *Beloved* 159
KAREN E. FIELDS

18. A Profusion of Women's Voices: Mothers and Daughters Redefining the Myths 171
ABBY H. P. WERLOCK

19. Nonfiction about Mothers and Daughters: A Selected Bibliography 185
ABBY H. P. WERLOCK

Index 195

About the Editor and Contributors 201