BITTER FAME

A LIFE OF SYLVIA PLATH

ANNE STEVENSON

WITH ADDITIONAL MATERIAL BY

Lucas Myers, Dido Merwin, and Richard Murphy

VIKING

CONTENTS

PREFACE · xi

1
1 · *The Girl Who Wanted to Be God,* 1932–1949

17
2 · *A Smith Girl,* 1950–1952

34
3 · *The City of Spare Parts,* 1952–1955

59
4 · *Pursuit,* 1955–1956

85
5 · *Fire and Flower,* 1956–1957

109
6 · *Disquieting Muses,* 1957–1958

133
7 · *Electra on Azalea Path,* 1958–1959

159
8 · *Poem for a Birthday,* 1959

175
9 · *Ariel in the Tree,* 1959–1960

201
10 · *Warnings,* 1960–1961

221
11 · *The Stigma of Selfhood*, 1961–1962

261
12 · *Getting There*, 1962–1963

EPILOGUE · 300

APPENDIX I · 307
Ah, Youth . . . : Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath at Cambridge and After, by Lucas Myers

APPENDIX II · 322
Vessel of Wrath: A Memoir of Sylvia Plath, by Dido Merwin

APPENDIX III · 348
A Memoir of Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes on a Visit to the West of Ireland in 1962, by Richard Murphy

SOURCES AND NOTES · 359

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS · 387

INDEX · 389

Illustrations follow p. 174