Contents

Acknowledgments ix
A Note on Language xv
Introduction 1

1. The Politics of Sex and Representation in Harriet Jacobs’s *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* 19
   Eenie, Meenie, Minie, Moe, Abuser, Victim, Ally, Foe? 21
   Confession and Commodities, Silence and Sale 24
   Sexual Truth, Testimony, and Tyranny 29
   Flint, Sands, and Willis: South to North, Daddies to Dandies 33
   Aunt Martha’s Mask 36

2. Naming *Our Nig*’s Multivalent Mothers 43
   Extended Family: Aunties’ Place and Property 51
   Ma’ Nig and Maternal Abandonment 57
   Multivalent Mulattas and Legal Racing 60
   (Un)Trustworthy Narrators and Multiple Starts 65

3. Reading White Slavery, Sexuality, and Embedded History in Frances E. W. Harper’s *Iola Leroy* 73
   Cultural Literacy, Legible Transcripts, and Reading “Aright” in the 1890s 76
Forced Prostitution, Rape, and White Slavery's Double Meanings  80
Ida B. Wells, Frances Harper, and the Two Iolas  90
Martin Delany, Lucy A. Delaney, and Iola’s Lucille Delany  96
Petitioning Science, or Martin Delany and Dr. Frank, George and Lewis Latimer  102
4. Reading/Photographs: Emma Dunham Kelley-Hawkins’s Four Girls at Cottage City, Victoria Earle Matthews, and the Woman’s Era  113
   Reading/Photographs  116
   Women’s Clubs and Literary Critique  126
   The Woman’s Era Photographic Bylines  129
   Victoria Earle and Vera Earle  132
   Optic History  137
5. Home Protection, Literary Aggression, and Religious Defense in the Life and Writings of Amelia E. Johnson  138
   Public Standing and Civic Action of Amelia E. Johnson  141
   Women, the Law, and Baltimore’s Brotherhood of Liberty  148
   Racial Inequalities, or Snatching the Whip and Switching the Script  157
   Temperance and Bad Parental Temperaments  164
Coda: On Burials and Exhumations  173
Notes  179
Bibliography  221
Index  241