Contents

Foreword by Jeffrey Berman xi
Preface xvii
Acknowledgments xix
Abbreviations xxi

1. Introduction 1

2. Learning to See 23
   Integration and Disintegration in The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge and Other Writings
   Illness and Creativity

3. A Mask of Him Roams in His Place 48
   Differentiation between Self and Others in The Notebooks and Rilke’s Letters

4. This Lost, Unreal Woman 68
   Phia Rilke and the Maternal Figures in The Notebooks

5. Take Me, Give Me Form, Finish Me 88
   Lou Andreas-Salomé

6. To Fill All the Rooms of Your Soul 110
   Clara Rilke

7. This Always Secret Influence 131
   The Poet’s Changing Relationship with His Father

8. Rodin 165
CONTENTS

9. Woman Within 209
   Developments Leading to The Sonnets to Orpheus and the
   Completion of the Duino Elegies

   Notes 245

   Selected Bibliography 261

   Index 267