CONTENTS

List of Illustrations ix
Acknowledgments xi

INTRODUCTION
Narrative Advocacy, Outlaw Texts, and Nineteenth-Century Portias 1
The Performance of Feminist Jurisprudence in a Century of Legal Reform 2
Resistance through Narrative in Outlaw Texts 4
Nineteenth-Century Portias: Making the Character Real 8

CHAPTER 1
A Novel Approach to Feminist Jurisprudence: Narrating the Gothic
Reality of Coverture 17
Buried Alive under Coverture 21
Wollstonecraft’s Prosecution of Gothic Laws 23
Outlaw Texts: Novels That Don’t Police 28

CHAPTER 2
Legislative Histories and Literary Herstories: Infanticide, Bastardy, and the “Lewd Woman” 33
The Law’s “Truth” about Infanticide and the Literary Judgment of Hetty Sorrel 36
Evidence to the Contrary: Infanticide in Outlaw Texts 41
Frances Trollope’s Jessie Phillips: What about Her Story? 43
CHAPTER 3
Birth Control on Trial: Law, Literature, and Libel 68
   Annie Besant Defends “A Dirty, Filthy Book” 73
Margaret Dunmore: or, A Socialist Home: Jane Clapperton’s Literary Trial of Family Planning 82
From the Obscene to the Offensive: Birth-Control Advocate Marie Stopes Sues for Libel 89

CHAPTER 4
Sitting in Judgment: A Cross-Examination of Women, Law, and Empire 96
   Judge-Made Law: Attempts to Regulate a Growing Concern 98
   She-who-must-be-obeyed: Queen of the Imagination 102
   Mary Slessor: White Queen of the Okoyong 112
   Women in the Legal Profession: “She” Makes It 118

CHAPTER 5
Appealing Women: Late-Century Publication of Private Wrongs 123
   “A sort of legal Donna Quixote”: Georgina Weldon’s Multiple Appeals 124
   The Clitheroe Case: Appealing to Public Opinion 138
   Narrative Appeals in New Woman Novels 147

AFTERWORD 173

Table of Acts 177
Notes 179
Bibliography 211
Index 225