

# Contents

Acknowledgments vii

Introduction: Libido and Power 1

Contexts 1

Self-negation as a Form of Desire 17

Inwardness and Community 24

1. Charlotte Brontë 34

The Refusal 34

Passion Is Repression 40

The Nature of Brontëan Desire 51

Repression's Insular Release 68

Repression as Power 78

The Reversibility of Power 96

2. George Eliot 114

Repression and the Social Novelist 114

~~The Religion of Humanity~~ 121

The Personal Compensation 130

Self-negating Desire: Love 141

~~Self-negating Desire: Altruism~~ 166

Egotism as Submission: The Fear of Fusion 181

3. Charles Dickens 201

~~Dickens and Desire~~ 201

~~The Retreat from Communities of Desire~~ 213

Synthetic Symmetries 226

Repression and Social Authority 252

Sexual Hierarchies 271

Conclusion 284

Index 291