# Contents

Acknowledgments xvii  

Introduction 1  
   La Belle et la Bête and “The Other Voice” 1  
   Life and Works of Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve 2  
   The Literary Fairy Tale and Women Writers 20  
   A Young Woman’s Coming-of-Age in Eighteenth-Century France 29  
      Sex and Violence 30  
      Tenderness 32  
      Desire 33  
      The Wedding Night 36  
   Powerful Women: Fairies, Queens, and Amazons 38  
      Beauty: The Heroic and Worldly Woman 41  
      The Fairy as Author 43  
      Fairy Helpers 45  
      Fairies Behaving Badly 48  
   Weak Men: The Beast, the Merchant, and the King 51  
      Two Meanings of the Beast: The Monstrosity of Body and Mind 54  
   Exotic Destinations and Marvelous Lands 56  
      The La Rochelle-Saint-Domingue Connection 58  
      Fortunes Lost and Fortunes Gained 61  
      “Everything exudes joy and magnificence” 63  
      The Invisible Labor of Magnificence 64  
   The Afterlife of Beauty and the Beast 68  
   Note on the Translation 71  

The Young American Girl and Tales at Sea by Madame de *** 73  
   Dedication to Madame Feydeau de Marville 75  
   Preface 76  
   Sailing to the New World 77  
   Story of the Beauty and the Beast 89  
   Story of the Beast 138  
   Story of the Lady Fairy 151  

Bibliography 173  

Index 183