CONTENTS

Preface ix

Introduction: The Problem of Reality and the New Rationale for Romance 1

PART I: THE WASTE LAND AS INSTITUTION 31

- 1. The Grail Knight Arrives 35 Ken Kesey, One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest
- 2. The Fisher King Turns Warden 52 Stanley Elkin, A Bad Man
- The Grail Knight Goes to College 72
 John Barth, Giles Goat-Boy
- 4. The Grail Knight Departs 94 Joseph Heller, Catch-22

PART II: THE WASTE LAND AS CONSPIRACY 117

- 5. The Illusion and the Possibility of Conspiracy 123 Thomas Pynchon, V. and The Crying of Lot 49
- 6. Conspiracy from Without and Within 150
 John Hawkes, The Lime Twig; Stanley Elkin, Boswell

PART III: FROM WASTE LAND TO FABLE LAND 185

- 7. Out of the Waste Land and into the Fire:
 Cataclysm or the Cosmic Cool 189
 Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., The Sirens of Titan; Mother
 Night; Cat's Cradle; God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater; Slaughterhouse-Five or The Children's
 Crusade
- 8. Out of the Waste Land 220 Peter S. Beagle, The Last Unicorn

Selected Bibliography 243 Index 253 Affirmation, 7, 18, 174-75, 177, 220; through symbolic gesture, 21-22, 47, 70, 72, 79, 80, 84, 91-92, 96, 113, 172, 180-81, 204, 207-08, 214; and One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, 37, 47; and A Bad Man, 53, 62, 66, 69, 70-71; and Giles Goat-Boy, 72, 74, 78, 79, 80, 84; and Catch-22, 96, 108, 110-11, 113; and V., 138-43; and The Lime Twig, 163, 171, 172; and Boswell, 178-79, 180-81; and Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., 191, 199-200, 204, 205, 207-08, 214; and The Last Unicorn, 221-23, 233

Albee, Edward: Who's Afraid of Virgina Woolf?, 4, 70, 146,

151, 171, 228

Allegory, 23, 29, 187; and One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, 48; and A Bad Man, 55; and Giles Goat-Boy, 75, 85, 88, 89; and The Last Unicorn, 223, 224, 237. See also Fable

American Dream, 19, 86, 104, 128; as controlling metaphor, 8-10; and A Bad Man, 69
Annihilation, 7, 182; and V.,

124-44 passim; and The Crying of Lot 49, 145, 146, 148; and The Lime Twig, 150, 151, 163; and exorcism, 182-83; and Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., 194, 196-97, 199, 200, 213, 214, 216-17; and The Last Unicorn, 220, 221, 222, 224, 227, 237, 238. See also Death wish propriori. Michelangelo: Blow-

Antonioni, Michelangelo: Blowup, 151

Barth, John, 16, 17, 27, 28, 50; The Sot-Weed Factor, 16, 176; Giles Goat-Boy, 20, 25, 72-93, 96, 104, 107, 146. See also Affirmation; Allegory; Black humor; Control over man's life; Eliot, T. S.; Fable; Fact and fiction; Oedipal theme

Barthelme, Donald: Snow White,

20, 24

Beagle, Peter S., 187, 188; The Last Unicorn, 23, 220-42; A Fine and Private Place, 222, 226. See also Affirmation; Allegory; Black humor; Control over man's life; Eliot, T. S.; Fable; Fact and fiction

Bellow, Saul, 14-15, 95; Henderson the Rain King, 15, 17; Herzog, 15

Berger, Thomas: Little Big Man, 25; Reinhart in Love,

176

Black humor, 5, 22-23, 26-29, 182-83, 187, 220-21; and One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, 46, 49-50; and A Bad Man, 60, 69-71; and Giles Goat-Boy, 73; and Catch-22, 101-02; and conspiracy, 120-21; and V., 128, 129, 137; and The Crying of Lot 49, 145; and The Lime Twig, 173-74; and the isolated self, 176, 177, 181; and Boswell, 179-80, 181; blurred fact and fiction, 187-88; and Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., 190, 192, 199, 200, 214; and The Last Unicorn, 221

Blechman, Burt: The Octopus

Papers, 25

Brown, Norman O.: Life against Death, 10, 81-83, 89-90

Call to action: as theme, 90-91 Campbell, Joseph: The Hero with a Thousand Faces, 18, 68-69, 76-79

Cataclysm, 194, 196-97, 199, 200,

213, 214, 216-17

Charyn, Jerome, 154; On the Darkening Green, 114-16; Going to Jerusalem, 115

Chase, Richard: The American Novel and Its Tradition, 5, 7, 9-10, 22

College Novel in America, The, 92

Comic-strip characters. See Identity

Control over man's life: as lost, 3-4, 5, 33, 115-16, 119-20, 182;

and The Waste Land, 10; and comic-strip characters, 17; and the fable, 23, 26, 28; and One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, 50-51; and A Bad Man, 64, 68, 70; and Giles Goat-Boy, 75, 78, 79, 80, 81, 84-85, 90; and Catch-22, 94-95, 96, 99-100, 108, 112; and V., 127-28, 136, 138; and The Crying of Lot 49, 145; and The Lime Twig, 150, 154, 155, 164, 169, 170, 171; and the isolated self, 175-76; and exorcism, 181; and Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., 192-96; and The Last Unicorn, 227-28; and the novel of the seventies, 241. See also Mystery of fact

Death wish, 85; and The Lime Twig, 150, 151, 152-53, 154, 155, 156, 161, 162, 163, 165, 170, 172; and Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., 189, 211. See also Annihilation

Decadence: in the twentieth century, 133-36, 140, 141, 142, 143

DeMott, Benjamin, 3-4, 127-28,

Donleavy, J. P.: A Singular Man, 5n

Donohue, H. E. F.: The Higher Animals, 92

Dos Passos, John, 25

Dostoevski, Fyodor: Crime and Punishment, 102

Eighteenth-century novel, 16, 25 Eliot, T. S.: "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," 29, 178

—The Waste Land, 10-12, 19, 20, 29, 115, 152; and One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, 35-36,

39, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47; and A Bad Man, 55, 61-63, 64, 66, 69; parodied, 73-74, 79; and Giles Goat-Boy, 73-74, 75, 78, 79, 85-86; and Catch-22, 98, 108-09, 111-12; and V., 123, 132, 135, 139; and The Crying of Lot 49, 145-46, 147; and The Lime Twig, 154, 155-57, 161-62, 163, 171-72, 173; and Boswell, 177-78; and Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., 200-01, 204-05, 207, 213; and The Last Unicorn, 224, 228, 229, 230-31, 239

Elkin, Stanley, 16, 17, 27, 28, 50, 197, 204, 221, 240; *A Bad Man*, 4-5, 21, 53-71, 72-73, 86, 96, 97, 107, 111, 171; *Boswell*, 16, 17, 175-81. *See also Affirmation*; Allegory; American Dream; Black humor; Control over man's life; Eliot, T. S.; Fable; Fact and fiction; Isolated self; Victims and victimizers

Ellison, Ralph, 14, 95; Invisible Man, 17, 18, 67-68, 148-49

Esquire, 120
Existentialism, 7, 18–19, 68; literary uses of, 13–15, 22; as resolution, 14

Exorcism: as act of love, 4, 70, 171, 187; and the fable, 26, 182-83; and *The Crying of Lot 49*, 146; and control over man's life, 181; and annihilation, 182-83; and Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., 189, 212-13

Fable, 22–26, 28, 29, 143–44, 174–75, 182–83, 187; and control over man's life, 23, 26, 28; and blurred fact and fiction, 23–26, 187–88; as exorcism, 26, 182–83; and One Flew over

the Cuckoo's Nest, 48; and A Bad Man, 71; and Giles Goat-Boy, 88, 89; and Catch-22, 114; and V., 143-44; and The Lime Twig, 173-75; and Boswell, 180, 181; as act of love, 182-83, 233, 238; and Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., 189-90, 191, 197, 199, 205-06, 212-13, 214, 219; and The Last Unicorn, 220-21, 223, 233, 237, 238, 240 Fact and fiction: blurring of, 1-3, 18, 21, 33, 174-75, 176-77, 221, 237, 240; and ordinary experience, 4-5, 52; and Romance, 5-6, 8; and The Waste Land, 10; and the fable, 23-26, 187-88; and One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, 48, 51; and A Bad Man, 59, 60-61, 71; and Giles Goat-Boy, 88-89; and Catch-22, 96, 100-01, 102; and V., 136, 137, 138; and The Lime Twig, 154, 174-75; and Boswell, 176-77; black humor, 187-88; Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., 191-92, 197-98, 213; and The Last Unicorn, 221, 237. See also Mystery of fact

Fariña, Richard: Been Down So Long It Looks Like Up to Me, 92

Fiedler, Leslie, 152, 172; Waiting for the End, 93

Fifties, novel of the, 7, 14-15, 17-20, 22, 28, 58, 67-68, 95, 148-49

Fitzgerald, F. Scott: The Great Gatsby, 10

Hassan, Ihab: Radical Innocence, 6, 13-14, 19 Hawkes, John, 47, 175, 176, 178,

181, 194, 197, 221, 224, 237;

Hawkes, John (continued)

The Lime Twig, 150-75, 187. See also Affirmation; Annihilation; Black humor; Control over man's life; Death wish; Eliot T. S.; Fable; Fact and fiction; Victims and victimizers; Violence

Hawthorne, Nathaniel, 49; and Romance, 5; The Scarlet Let-

ter, 177

Heller, Joseph, 154, 165, 197, 204, 221; Catch-22, 28, 86, 94-114, 142. See also Affirmation; Black humor; Control over man's life; Eliot, T. S.; Fable; Fact and fiction; Inanimate man; Mystery of fact; Victims and victimizers

Hoffman, Daniel: Form and Fable in American Fiction, 8

Identity: as literary theme, 15-17; search for, 15, 127, 178-79; and comic-strip characters, 17, 49, 60

Inanimate man, 85, 120; and Catch-22, 96, 105-07, 108; and V., 133-34, 135, 139, 140, 141,

Isolated self, 175-77; and control over man's life, 175-76; and black humor, 176, 177, 181; and Boswell, 177-81

James, Henry: and Romance, 5 Jones, LeRoi, 241 Journey: as literary device, 15, 76 Joyce, James, 25

Kafka, Franz: The Trial, 63 Kesey, Ken, 17, 204; One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, 15, 35-51, 52, 55, 62, 70, 91, 96, 107, 171, 182; Sometimes a Great Notion, 90-91. See also Affirmation; Allegory; Black humor; Control over man's life; Eliot, T. S.; Fable; Fact and fiction; Romance

Kiely, Benedict, 223n

King, Larry L. (reviewer), 187-88

Klein, Marcus: After Alienation,

Lewis, R. W. B.: and the pattern of withdrawal and return, 17-18

Lyons, John O.: The College Novel in America, 92

McCarthy, Joseph, 101, 136
Mailer, Norman, 14, 188; Miami
and the Siege of Chicago, 240
Malamud, Bernard, 14-15; The
Natural, 15; The Assistant,
20; A New Life, 20, 92

Melville, Herman, 177; Moby Dick, 19-20, 40, 195

Miller, Henry, 20, 21

Mystery of fact, 3–4, 5, 50–51, 90, 161, 165, 174; and Catch-22, 96; and V., 124–25, 127–28, 136, 137; and The Crying of Lot 49, 147; and Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., 191. See also Control over man's life; Fact and fiction

Neugeboren, Jay, 17; Listen Ruben Fontanez, 152

Oates, Joyce Carol: Expensive People, 2n

Oedipal theme: and Giles Goat-Boy, 84-85; and The Crying of Lot 49, 146 Percy, Walker: The Moviegoer, 5n, 176; The Last Gentleman, 176 Poirier, Richard, 73n, 125, 147 Pynchon, Thomas, 7, 27, 28, 50, 108, 150, 151, 161, 163, 169, 177, 178, 181, 190, 194, 197, 221, 224, 237, 238, 240; V., 15, 20, 23, 86, 90, 96, 123-44, 145, 154, 187, 199, 200, 213; The Crying of Lot 49, 21, 144-49, 181. See also Affirmation; Annihilation; Black humor; Control over man's life; Eliot, T. S.; Fable; Fact and fiction; Inanimate man; Mystery of fact; Oedipal theme

Raglan, Lord, 76
Reed, Ishmael, 16
Reich, Charles, 147
Reston, James, 119-20
Revelation, waiting for, 146-49
Romance: traditional and contemporary uses of, 5-10, 12, 22; and One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, 48-50
Roszak, Theodore, 147
Roth, Philip, 2, 60
Rovit, Earl: The Player King, 16-17, 176
Russell, Richard (U.S. Senator), 216

Salinger, J. D.: The Catcher in the Rye, 33 Scholes, Robert: The Fabulators, 23, 26-27, 28 Science fiction: and Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., 193 Seventies, novel of the, 101n, 232, 239-41; and control over man's life, 241 Sex: as literary device, 20-21; parodied, 82; abuse of, 129, 132-33

Shakespeare, William: Antony and Cleopatra, 21; Titus Andronicus, 27

Shetzline, David: DeFord, 151-

Solitude. See Isolated self

Southern, Terry: The Magic Christian, 5n

Spacks, Barry: The Sophomore,

Styron, William, 14, 95; Set This House on Fire, 17; Lie Down in Darkness, 177

Swift, Jonathan, 26-27, 28, 182, 192

Symbolic gesture. See Affirmation

Victims and victimizers, 115; and A Bad Man, 56; and Catch-22, 103-04; and The Lime Twig, 151, 154, 161, 164, 165-72; and Boswell, 181

Violence: as resolution, 47; as proof of humanity, 52, 70; and The Lime Twig, 163, 171

Voltaire, 26-27

Vonnegut, Kurt, Jr., 15-16, 27, 28, 50, 187, 188, 189-219, 224, 237, 238, 240; God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater, 5n, 19-20, 25, 193, 198, 200, 205-08, 211, 214, 217-18, 219; Mother Night, 25, 183, 193, 196, 197, 200, 208-12, 214, 216; Slaughterhouse-Five, 189, 190, 192, 193-94, 196, 197-99, 200, 203-04, 212-14, 216, 217, 219; Cat's Cradle, 190, 193, 194, 195, 196, 198, 200, 201-02, 204-05, 215, 217, 218-19, 221, 222; The Sirens of Titan, 193, 201, 205. See also Affirmation; AnnihiVonnegut, Kurt, Jr. (continued) lation; Black humor; Control over man's life; Death wish; Eliot, T. S.; Exorcism; Fable; Fact and fiction; Mystery of fact

Waiting for revelation, 146-49
Waste Land, The. See Eliot,
T. S.
Whitman, Walt: "Song of Myself." 67

Wordsworth, William, 82