CONTENTS

Preface	ix
Acknowledgments	XV
1. Talking about Ourselves: The Rules of the Game	1
Jolting Events	3
The Case against Narrative Identity	8
Truth or Consequences on Oprah	17
The Narrative Identity System	22
Narrative Rules, Identity Rules	31
"My Father's Brain"	52
2. Autobiographical Consciousness: Body, Brain,	
Self, and Narrative	60
Antonio Damasio and the "Movie-in-the-Brain"	61
Doing Consciousness	79

3. Identity Work: People Making Stories	87
Looking at Vermeer: "Inner" Lives and	
"Outer" Forces	90
Everyday Lives	103
"'My Father'"	130
The Pressure of Circumstances, the Power	
of Story	143
4. Living Autobiographically	149
The Homeostatic Machine	152
"Arbitrage": André Aciman and "Remembering	
Remembering"	159
Works Cited	171
Index	181