Contents

Acknowledgments ix

INTRODUCTION
Writing Reading the Romance

CHAPTER I
The Institutional Matrix: Publishing Romantic Fiction
19

CHAPTER 2
The Readers and Their Romances
46

CHAPTER 3
The Act of Reading the Romance: Escape and Instruction
86

CHAPTER 4
The Ideal Romance: The Promise of Patriarchy
119

CHAPTER 5
The Failed Romance: Too Close to the Problems of Patriarchy
157

CHAPTER 6
Language and Narrative Discourse: The Ideology of Female Identity
186

Conclusion 209

Appendixes

223

Notes

241

Bibliography

259

Index

269