

“MODELS TO THE UNIVERSE”  
VICTORIAN HEGEMONY AND  
THE CONSTRUCTION OF FEMININE IDENTITY

Table of Contents

I. Investigating Representations of Women in Women’s Novels.....	1
Imperial Hegemony .....	5
The Power of the Novel .....	9
The Novel as an Instrument of Discursive Reinforcement.....	13
The Domestic Angel and the Novel.....	19
Women’s Novels as Instruments of Hegemonic Subversion.....	22
The 1860s: When the Future Palled.....	28
Angels and Redundant Women .....	31
The ‘Woman’s Novel’: Domestic Realism and Sensationalism.....	37
II. A Woman’s True Mission .....	55
The Angel and the Monster	
<i>Feminine Antecedents</i> .....	55
<i>Between Patriarchy and Imperialism</i> .....	57
<i>Sensationalism and Domestic Realism</i> .....	61
<i>The Feminine Object</i> .....	65
<i>The Angel in the House</i> .....	70
<i>Internal Battles</i> .....	75
Middle Class Subject Roles for Women	
<i>Angel and Nation</i> .....	77
<i>Redundant Women</i> .....	81
<i>Woman as Nurse</i> .....	84
<i>Wife and Mother</i> .....	90
III. To See and Be Seen: The “Many-Eyed World” .....	109
The Self-Reinforcing, Self-Regulating Power Structure .....	109
The Panoptical Power Pyramid.....	112
Crime and Punishment.....	118
The Circulatory Intelligence Network .....	120
The Value of a Good Reputation .....	128
Appearances Are Everything .....	135
Under Surveillance.....	139
Building a Reputation .....	145
Living Inside the Panopticon .....	156

IV. I Am Woman. What Am I?.....	172
Modeling Femininity .....	173
In the Tradition of Jane Austen.....	183
Didacticism and Realism .....	201
Moralizing Sensationalism.....	216
An Exciting Tale—No Moral Lessons Please! .....	239
V. Accounting for the Gaps .....	267
Elements of Resistance .....	267
Putting on a Costume .....	280
The Victorian Angel .....	292
VI. Afterword.....	300
VII. Bibliography.....	304