Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
Citation Note	xi
Preface	xiii
1. The Erotics of Youth	1
Family Faces	3
Boarding at the Brentons	24
A First Friendship	30
2. Why Whitman Gave Up Fiction	37
3. Interleaf: From Walter to Walt	56
4. Faith in Sex: Leaves of Grass in 1855-56	81
Twenty-Eight Young Men	82
The Flesh and the Appetites	97
The Twenty-Ninth Bather	114

viii		Contents

5. The Politics of Love in the 1860 Leaves of Grass	122
Enfans d'Adam	129
Calamus	136
6. Whitman Unperturbed: The Civil War and After	153
7. "In Loftiest Spheres": Whitman's Visionary Feminism	172
Notes	195
Index	245
Illustrations follow page 80	