## Contents

_Acknowledgements_ vi
_Abbreviations_ vii

1. _Introduction: Rainbow and Granite, Women and Biography_ 1
2. _‘Vain are these speculations’: Jane Austen and Female Perfection_ 37
3. _‘Even a lady sometimes raises her voice’: Mary Russell Mitford and Elizabeth Barrett Browning_ 74
4. _‘That indefinable something’: Charlotte Brontë and Protest_ 108
5. _‘A gap in your library, Madam’: The Lives of Professional Women_ 137
6. _Writing Virginia Woolf: Autobiographical Fragments_ 182

_Bibliography_ 199
_Index_ 211