Contents

Foreword 9

Part I
OBSERVATIONS FROM THE WEDDING SCENE 17
Beauty and the ritual 21
Beauty and the tale 41

Part II
REPRESENTATIONS OF BEAUTY IN PERSPECTIVE 61
Mental images of Beauty 63
Figurative images of Beauty 87

Part III
CHILDREN AND THE MONSTER’S DOUBLE EXCLUSION 121
The exclusion of the mother’s husband 123
The exclusion of one’s father 137

Part IV
CHILDREN AND THE DOUBLE WORSHIP OF BEAUTY 165
The mother worshipping her son 169
The mother as the son’s dream 195

Part V
TRAGIC PERSONA: THE FUSION BETWEEN MOTHER AND SON 205
Chastity, violence, domination 207
The daughters and the father 219

Part VI
THE AMBIGUITY OF POLITICS AND SCIENCE 241
An ambiguous scenario: the Italian Case 251
Concluding remarks 273

Bibliography 295