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978-0-521-14280-9 - The German Bildungsroman: Incest and Inheritance

Michael Minden

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The *Bildungsroman* – the story of the development or formation of a young man – is the most famous German contribution to the European novel. Most studies of the *Bildungsroman* have concentrated on its underlying philosophy; Michael Minden addresses it as literature. He offers detailed readings of some of the best-known novels in the German language, from Goethe to Mann, including *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre*, *Agathon*, *Anton Reiser*, *Hyperion*, *Heinrich von Ofterdingen*, *Der grüne Heinrich*, *Der Nachsommer* and *Der Zauberberg*. Looking at the novels from the points of view of gender, subjectivity and ideology of the aesthetic, and taking account of late-twentieth-century literary theory, Minden uncovers aspects and motifs which subvert traditional ideas of the *Bildungsroman* and raise questions about the function and status of literature.

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To my mother and the memory of my father
and my grandmother

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