

## Contents

*List of figures* vii  
*Preface* ix  
*Acknowledgements* xii

- 1     **Story: ‘the orders by which we live our lives’** 1  
       Perspectives on narrative 4  
       What’s in a ‘story’? 9
  
- 2     **Abstract tales of cities: the narrative in urban theory** 14  
       Temporal ordering and urban theories 15  
       Plot and coherence in the academic tales 18  
       The universal in the particular 20  
       Conventions of academic story-telling 21
  
- 3     **Storying a concrete city: cows, gardens and other urban tales** 24  
       The planners’ tale: a story of destiny fulfilled 25  
       Tales of Utopias and garden cities 36  
       Milton Keynes: realm of the dreadful dragon and the concrete cows? 41  
       ‘Not just the concrete cows’: stories of history and humanity 47
  
- 4     **Storied lives: the tales of individual urban dwellers** 56  
       The personal narratives 57  
       Brenda Dawson’s tale 59  
       Performance and text: story-telling as well as story 73
  
- 5     **‘That’s my story’: narrative conventions in personal tales** 82  
       George Rowe’s tale 82  
       Time and event in the personal stories 89  
       Bessie Wyatt’s tale 93  
       The dramatis personae 98  
       Explanatory frames: continuity, avocation and the individual ‘I’ 101  
       Shirley Lambert’s tale 106  
       The creative actor and author 114
  
- 6     **Personal narratives and urban images** 124  
       Lucy Dale’s tale 124  
       Tales of Fishermead and the place of ‘place’ 131

vi	Contents
	Rachel Jacobs' tale 138
	Adventures of moving, housing and home 147
	Intimations of community 153
	Urban mythology, new city and the creativity of narrative 155
7	<b>Conclusion: whose stories of the city? 165</b>
	Interacting stories 166
	Story-telling for the city and its tellers 171
	Appendix 1 Note on sources and methods 181
	Appendix 2 The personal narrators 183
	<i>Notes</i> 190
	<i>References</i> 193
	<i>Index</i> 205