CONTENTS

Acknowledgments vii

Uncivil Society:
Hard-Boiled Crime Fiction and the Idea
of a Democratic Culture I

- 1 Constructing Race Williams: The Klan and the Making of Hard-Boiled Crime Fiction 39
- **2** "Mystic Rigmarole": Dashiell Hammett and the Realist Critique of Liberalism 87
- **3** The Pulp Writer as Vanishing American: Raymond Chandler's Decentralist Imagination 140
- **4** Letdown Artists: Paperback Noir and the Procedural Republic 198
- Tangibles: Chester Himes and the Slow Death of New DealPopulism 251

Conclusion: Beyond Us, Yet Ourselves 306

Notes 309 Bibliography 349 Index 365