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“Female Rebellion in Young Adult Dystopian Fiction is an exciting addition to the increasingly intersecting interests of gender studies, YA literature, and dystopia. The writers ponder two vital questions: how do these recent popular YA dystopias explore gender, and how empowering are they for their young female readers? Their interesting arguments will certainly stimulate conversation about the value of dystopia to a young audience.”

—Elaine Ostry, SUNY, Plattsburgh, USA

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ASHGATE STUDIES IN CHILDHOOD, 1700 TO THE PRESENT

Female Rebellion in Young
Adult Dystopian Fiction

SARA K. DAY, MIRANDA A. GREEN-BARTEET,
and AMY L. MONTZ

Female Rebellion in Young Adult Dystopian Fiction

Edited by
SARA K. DAY, MIRANDA A. GREEN-BARTEET,
and AMY L. MONTZ



Responding to the increasingly powerful presence of dystopian literature for young adults, this volume focuses on novels featuring a female protagonist who contends with societal and governmental threats at the same time that she is navigating the treacherous waters of young adulthood. The contributors relate the liminal nature of the female protagonist to liminality as a unifying feature of dystopian literature, literature for and about young women, and cultural expectations of adolescent womanhood. Divided into three sections, the collection investigates cultural assumptions and expectations of adolescent women, considers the various means of resistance and rebellion made available to and explored by female protagonists, and examines how the adolescent female protagonist is situated with respect to the groups and environments that surround her. In a series of thought-provoking essays on a wide range of writers that includes Libba Bray, Scott Westerfeld, Tahereh Mafi, Veronica Roth, Marissa Meyer, Ally Condie, and Suzanne Collins, the collection makes a convincing case for how this rebellious figure interrogates the competing constructions of adolescent womanhood in late-twentieth and early twenty-first century culture.