CONTENTS

Acknowledgment 1

Preface iv

Introduction 1

I The Broken Family and Bellow's Soliteries 11

II Romantic Love and Compansionate Marriage 31

III Absolutism: 'An Age of Embattled Women' 55

IV Nonfamily Living: 'Disease of the Single Self' 78

V Casual Sex: 'An Act of Citizenship' 96

VI Parental Home: 'A Sacred Category' 118

VII Children and the Pursuit of Innocence 139

VIII The Homeward Flight: 'The Axial Lines' 157

IX Bellow's Philosophy of Kinship 180

X Sociobiology and 'Sacred Absurdity' 204

Conclusion 225

Selected Bibliography 236