Translator's Note vii
Author's Note to the English Translation ix
Preface and Acknowledgments xi

Chapter 1 • A Sweet Poetics 1
  1.1 “But I . . .” 2
  1.2 The ass and the cicada 10
  1.3 A sweet and misleading whisper 12
  1.4 Between philosophy and entertainment: Astonishment (ut mireris) 36
  1.5 The poetics of the novel 38
  1.6 Lucius of Patrae and Aristides of Miletus 42

Chapter 2 • Old Wives’ Tales and Servile Pleasures 51
  2.1 Entertainment, initiation, aпорia, and satire 52
  2.2 Dissonances 57
  2.3 Greedy priests 69
  2.4 Isis and her sisters 75
  2.5 Lucius’ shaven head 82
  2.6 Horizons of expectation 89
  2.7 An old wives’ tale (anilis fabula) 95
  2.8 Paradox, satire, and levels of reading 118
  2.9 Lucius, before and after 131
## Chapter 3 • Metamorphoses of Genres  133

3.1 Philosophers on the road  134
3.2 Eyes and ears as criteria for truth  141
3.3 Lucius and his Sirens  146
3.4 Readers, listeners, and spectators  154

## Chapter 4 • Greece, Rome, Africa  165

4.1 On the road with Lucius  166
4.2 The reputation of Corinth  169
4.3 Romanization  175
4.4 Romanocentrism  179
4.5 The readership of the novel  198
4.6 Between Rome and the provinces  200

Bibliography  209
Index locorum  228
General Index  236