Acknowledgments 7

INTRODUCTION Ovartaci on the couch 11

CHAPTER 1 The chief lungtic 31

Argentina and Danish voices 36
The broken rifle 39
One hell of a fantasist 42
My liberation day 49
Marcussen and Ovartaci 53
Neurosis and psychosis 63
Dead children 67
Reincarnation and its vicissitudes 72
Death himself operates 77
The soul is a butterfly 80
The meaning of Ovartaci 90

CHAPTER 2 Woman and 'virulity' 127

Christ as cannibal 130
Phallus 140
Madonnas and Divas 146
High heels 156
The sublime body 170
The indestructible body 185

APPENDIX Two tales 197

The mortuary chapel at Dalstrup 197 Flame people 210

Notes 215