

Eighteenth-Century Women's
Writing and the 'Scandalous
Memoir'

Caroline Breashears

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palgrave
macmillan

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ISBN 978-3-319-48654-3

ISBN 978-3-319-48655-0 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-48655-0

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016958525

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Printed on acid-free paper

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The registered company is Springer International Publishing AG
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is about influence and innovation, so I begin with the origin of my interest in women's memoirs: the inspiring classes and writings of Patricia Meyer Spacks, who drew attention to the life writings of women in her groundbreaking study, *Imagining a Self: Autobiography and Novel in Eighteenth-Century England*. Decades later, she remains my model of a scholar, teacher, and mentor. I continue to be fortunate in the support of friends and colleagues, and those in the English Department at St. Lawrence University—especially Peter Bailey and Bruce Weiner—have been unfailingly generous.

Likewise, I have benefited enormously from the assistance of many archivists and library faculty, including those at St. Lawrence University. Erica Hague at the Atlanta History Center deserves special mention for copying an example of Civil War erotica on “Margaret Moncrieffe” with nary a snide comment. I am also grateful for permission to quote from materials in the possession of Microform Academic Publishers; the New York Historical Society; the West Sussex Record Office; the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University; and the Kent History & Library Centre, Maidstone.

I thank the wonderful staff at Palgrave Macmillan, especially Ben Doyle and Eva Hodgkin, for their support and guidance through each stage of the submission and publication process. I extend particular gratitude to the anonymous reviewer for Palgrave Macmillan, who offered superb advice that improved my book.

Finally, I am grateful for the support of my family: Betty Breashears, who always knows the perfect moment to send hazelnut truffles; Larry Breashears, who knows all about puppies; and Jason Hawkins, who has lived with my “ladies” these many years. This book is for you.

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