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For at least four of her six years she had been aware of how close at
hand everything was, of how whatever she wanted tended to be wher-
ever she was. “Come out,” Marcy said. Why should she? What was
in the bedroom that was not in the closet?

—Barbara Gowdy, Mister Sandman

My answer is as clear as sunrise, but conveniently smaller.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Looking back on the *itinerarium* that has led to this little book, I cannot help being reminded of Thomas, the historian whom Flannery O’Connor mocks in a short story titled “The Comforts of Home.” He leads a life of safely enclosed, domestic research until his mother abruptly takes in a charity case, a “little slut” who interferes with his careful historiography. “His home was to him home, workshop, church, as personal as the shell of a turtle and as necessary. He could not believe that it could be violated in this way (130).” I have had the good fortune, or perhaps simply the grace, to find myself intruded upon time and again.

My thanks, first of all, to Bonnie Wheeler for her charisma and confidence in this project; to Farideh Koohi-Kamali and Julia Cohen at Palgrave; and to the manuscript’s peer reviewer, whose suggestions made this a better book. The foundations of this project were laid during my years as a graduate student at Stanford University, where the Department of Comparative Literature provided me with funding and freedom: two gifts I cannot repay. Sepp Gumbrecht has never ceased, from the sun-drenched patios of Palo Alto to the dock of a cottage overlooking Cayuga Lake, to be an inspiring interlocutor, gentle guide, and lover of things sacred and profane. Seth Lerer has been a generous respondent, a connoisseur of comedy, and a model of rhetorical finesse. The death of Brigitte Cazelles in January 2004 made this book’s argument all the more urgent. Jeffrey Schnapp introduced me to Pierre et Gilles (who lie under the surface of this book, even as they will shimmer on the surface of the next one). My adventures on that technicolor coast were, and still are, aided and abetted by a host of friends, colleagues, and drinking buddies, especially Dawn Green, Karen Gross, John Hess, Tim Zerlang, Adrienne Janus, Christy Pichichero, and Meg Worley.

Since 2003, I have had the pleasure of taking part in Cornell’s Department of Romance Studies, which somehow made room in the French section for someone whose claims to French literature were nothing short of tenuous. I am especially grateful to Richard Klein for his particular brand of intellectual hedonism and Tracy McNulty for her bracing
directness and camaraderie. My small world in Ithaca has been made larger than I would ever have thought possible, and I would like to thank some of the friends who have made it happen: Jason Frank, for his fierce intelligence and love of design; Myrna Garcia, for chocolate; Becky Givan, for tea; Ellis Hanson, for cocktails; Kim Leighton, for so many conversations about love and lack; Kate Morris, for hospitality on both coasts; Diane Rubenstein, for introducing me to Viagra d’Abruzzo; and Lee Strock, for gin and style when I needed both of them badly. Judith Peraino and Masha Raskolnikov are my lovely partners in medieval crime, and they are even lovelier in ways that have nothing to do, thank God, with the Middle Ages.

I am also grateful for the conversations I have had over the years with a community of friends and scholars elsewhere: Bill Burgwinkle, above all, has been an exceptional host, friend, and correspondent throughout the many stages of this book’s genesis; I cannot imagine the past six years without him. Let me quickly add my thanks to Bettina Bildhauer, for taking me to the beach; Emma Campbell, for her theoretical audacity and her company in Nice; Holly Crocker, for encouragement when I needed it; Marilynn Desmond, for advice and company across countries and continents; Albrecht Diem, for showing me that historians are not all bad; Noah Guynn, for giving me yet another reason to visit San Francisco; Bob Mills, for daring to write such inspiring stuff and taking a train with me to St. Andrews; Kristina Olson, fellow Virgo; and Marc Schachter. I would never have become a medievalist without Karen Sullivan; my thanks to her as well.

And when it comes to my parents, Cary and Cathy, I am, like my mystics, at a loss for words. Their love keeps me grounded. My brothers and sister—Craig, Scott, Rebecca—confirm that we are destined to be a family of preachers and teachers. Winnie Pounds is the best grandmother in the world. Mark Tendall keeps me dreaming of California.

All these folks surround and disclose my life to me: they make me the claustrophile I am.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the following authors and publishers for permission to reprint previously published work.
