Motherhood and Space
MOTHERHOOD AND SPACE

CONFIGURATIONS OF THE MATERNAL
through Politics, Home, and the Body

EDITED BY
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palgrave
macmillan
For our mothers, Carol and Sally
Station Zero

Progress in childbirth is measured in stations from zero to five.

We’ve learned a hundred ways to wait. I’m vast. I breathe in patterns, you count from one to four, again I breathe, we travel small contractions. Smiling, you clock each one from start to start. She’s grown so great, we map the county, name the township, Station Five, where she’ll come forth. You hold me in the landscape of your arms, you form my ground, low hills, warm soil, white pines. I am her house, I’ve shaped her roof and walls and floor for months, feeling her fill the rooms. All local weather forms her first bouquet. I am the house on the hill, the door ajar, opening slowly. You are the meadows, beds of bright pink clover. Push! She claims this day.

Dolores Hayden
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