Joyce Green MacDonald discusses the links between women's racial, sexual, and civic identities in early modern texts. She examines the scarcity of African women in English plays of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the racial identity of the women in the drama, and also that of the women who watched and sometimes wrote the plays. The coverage also includes texts from the late fourteenth to the early eighteenth centuries by, among others, Shakespeare, Jonson, Davenant, the Countess of Pembroke, and Aphra Behn. MacDonald articulates many of her discussions of early modern women's races through a comparative method, using insights drawn from critical race theory, women's history, and contemporary disputes over canonicity, multiculturalism, and Afrocentrism. Seeing women as identified by their race and social standing as well as by their sex, this book will add depth and dimension to discussions of women's writing and of gender in Renaissance literature.

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WOMEN AND RACE IN EARLY MODERN TEXTS

JOYCE GREEN MACDONALD
Contents

Acknowledgments page vii

1 Introduction: women, race, and Renaissance texts 1

1 Cleopatra: whiteness and knowledge 21

2 Sex, race, and empire in Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra 45

3 Dido and Sophonisba of Carthage: marriage, race, and the bonds between men 68

4 The disappearing African woman: Imoinda in Oroonoko after Behn 87

5 Race, women, and the sentimental in Thomas Southerne's Oroonoko 108

6 Chaste lines: writing and unwriting race in Katherine Philips' Pompey 124

7 The queen's minion: sexual difference, racial difference, and Aphra Behn's Abdelazer 144

Conclusion: "The efficacy of Imagination" 164

Bibliography 169
Index 187
Acknowledgments


Over the time that this work has been developing, I have had the opportunity to enter critical conversations and – at least as important – develop working friendships with several of my scholarly contemporaries. I treasure talking and corresponding with Shakespeareans Arthur Little, Jr., Kim Hall, Margo Hendricks, Michael Dobson, John Michael Archer, Rebecca Bach, Lori Newcomb, and Lisa Starks, even when nothing of much scholarly consequence seems to be getting said.

I owe thanks to my students at the University of Kentucky who asked questions that hadn’t occurred to me and to which I didn’t always know the answers. They make me work harder. I am also grateful for the support of my colleagues, especially department chairs David Durant and Greg Waller. My own teachers David Scott Kastan and Ann Jennalie Cook inspired me to enter literary studies. Their intellect, professionalism, and sense of fun still show me how to do this job.
Acknowledgments

I am privileged to be part of two large, close-knit families. My parents, George and Mamie Green, always encouraged my love of books, taught me the value and dignity of work, and showed me that family ties are what endure. I hope I've made them proud. Alan MacDonald has always been my loving partner. He and our daughter Lily are the sources of my greatest happiness. I ask their forgiveness for being so distracted during the completion of this book, but I remind them that they're on every page, because they're in my heart.
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