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978-0-521-15375-1 - Masculinity, Gender and Identity in the English Renaissance Lyric

Catherine Bates

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MASCULINITY, GENDER AND IDENTITY IN THE ENGLISH RENAISSANCE LYRIC

In early modern lyric poetry, the male poet or lover often appears not as powerful and masterly but rather as broken, abject, and feminine. Catherine Bates examines the cultural and literary strategies behind this representation and uncovers radically alternative models of masculinity in the lyric tradition of the Renaissance. Focusing on Sidney, Raleigh, Shakespeare, and Donne, she offers astute new readings of a wide range of texts – a sonnet sequence, a blazon, an elegy, a complaint, and an epistle. She shows how existing critical approaches have too much invested in the figure of the authoritative male writer to be able to do justice to the truly radical nature of these alternative masculinities. Taking direction from recent psychoanalytic theories of gender formation, Bates develops critical strategies that make it possible to understand and appreciate what is genuinely revolutionary about these texts and about the English Renaissance lyric tradition at large.

CATHERINE BATES is Associate Professor (Reader) of English at the University of Warwick.

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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521153751

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First published 2007

First paperback printing 2010

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-88287-3 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-15375-1 Paperback

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Acknowledgements

This book has been long in the making and over the years many debts have been incurred. I would like to thank the editors of *SEL* for permission to reproduce here sections of my article on ‘Sidney and the Manic Wit of the Abject Male’ (2001), a piece that in many ways represents the seed from which this book grew. Thanks are also due to Blackwell Publishing for permission to reproduce here a substantially expanded version of my essay ‘The Enigma of *A Lover’s Complaint*’ from *A Companion to Shakespeare’s Sonnets*, ed. Michael Schoenfeldt (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006). I would also like to thank Professor Schoenfeldt personally for allowing me to publish the essay there – especially as it was not what he originally commissioned – and for his continued interest in my work. Professors Arthur Kinney and David Loewenstein also read sections of this book in an earlier form and for their long-term encouragement and support I am immensely grateful. My intellectual debts and sources of inspiration are fully acknowledged in the notes, but I would like to take this opportunity to single out Lynn Enterline, Marguerite Waller, Giuseppe Mazzotta, and the late Joel Fineman as the critics to whose work I owe the most and in whose steps I have endeavoured to follow.

I would not have been able to complete this project without the periods of study leave that I was generously granted by my institution. No less important has been the supportive and research-friendly environment at the University of Warwick, which I owe to the collegiality of all the staff and students there. In particular, I would like to thank my colleague John Fletcher for first introducing me to the work of Laplanche and for being so admirable a model for the psychoanalytic critic to aspire to. He also read drafts of these chapters and kept me on the straight and narrow. I owe much, too, to my last two Heads of Department, Professors Peter Mack and Thomas Docherty, and would like to thank them both for the faith they showed in me and for the help they provided with the book, especially at the end. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my editor at Cambridge University

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Press, Ray Ryan, who believed in the project from the beginning, stayed with it through its darkest hours, and did so much to expedite its speedy publication in the final stages. Finally, I would like to dedicate this book to all my favourite male friends: creative, individual, and so absolutely themselves, they prove better than anybody how much more there is to masculinity than mastery, and vice versa.

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<i>C</i>	<i>Criticism</i>
<i>CI</i>	<i>Critical Inquiry</i>
<i>EC</i>	<i>Essays in Criticism</i>
<i>ELH</i>	<i>English Literary History</i>
<i>ELN</i>	<i>English Language Notes</i>
<i>ELR</i>	<i>English Literary Renaissance</i>
<i>JEGP</i>	<i>Journal of English and Germanic Philology</i>
<i>MLN</i>	<i>Modern Language Notes</i>
<i>MLQ</i>	<i>Modern Language Quarterly</i>
<i>MLR</i>	<i>Modern Language Review</i>
<i>MP</i>	<i>Modern Philology</i>
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
<i>PQ</i>	<i>Philological Quarterly</i>
<i>RES</i>	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
<i>Rh</i>	<i>Rhetorica</i>
<i>RP</i>	<i>Renaissance Papers</i>
<i>RR</i>	<i>Romanic Review</i>
<i>SAR</i>	<i>South Atlantic Review</i>
<i>SCJ</i>	<i>Sixteenth Century Journal</i>
<i>SCR</i>	<i>South Central Review</i>
<i>SE</i>	<i>The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud</i> , ed. and trans. James Strachey, 24 vols. (London: Hogarth Press, 1960)
<i>SEL</i>	<i>Studies in English Literature 1500–1900</i>
<i>SP</i>	<i>Studies in Philology</i>
<i>SQ</i>	<i>Shakespeare Quarterly</i>
<i>SS</i>	<i>Spenser Studies</i>
<i>SSEL</i>	<i>Salzburg Studies in English Literature</i>
<i>St</i>	<i>Style</i>
<i>TLS</i>	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>
<i>TSSL</i>	<i>Texas Studies in Language and Literature</i>