

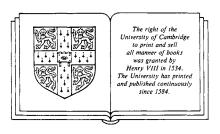
Confession and complicity in narrative



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To Nina



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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations will be used for page references for the major texts:

AA Absalom, Absalom!
C Augustine's Confessions
Diary of a Seducer

FC 'The Figure in the Carpet'

SW The Kiss of the Spider Woman
SL The Scarlet Letter

SL The Scarlet Letter
UN The Unnamable



Acknowledgements

I do not know if most books are as indebted to the generosity of readers as this one is. From the largest conceptions to the most minute matters of style, readers have told me what they liked and what they did not. My earliest readers were also those from whom I probably stole most freely: Philip Kuberski, Robert Gregory, and Nina Schwartz. The processes of reading and revision have made it difficult in places for me to tell my own work from theirs. That experience has been the most optimistic confirmation of the thesis of this book. I must also thank my former teachers, Alexander Gelley and John Carlos Rowe, who in their early readings of my manuscript chose encouragement over caution in their advice. And the careful reading John Paul Riquelme gave an intermediate version of the text contributed greatly to what economy the book now displays.

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