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978-1-107-05781-4 - Narrating the Crusades: Loss and Recovery in Medieval and Early
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Lee Manion

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NARRATING THE CRUSADES

In *Narrating the Crusades*, Lee Manion examines crusading's narrative-generating power as it is reflected in English literature from c. 1300 to 1604. By synthesizing key features of crusade discourse into one paradigm, this book identifies and analyzes the kinds of stories crusading produced in England, uncovering new evidence for literary and historical research as well as genre studies. Surveying medieval romances including *Richard Cœur de Lion*, *Sir Isumbras*, *Octavian*, and *The Sowdone of Babylone* alongside historical practices, chronicles, and treatises, this study shows how different forms of crusading literature address cultural concerns about collective and private action. These insights extend to early modern writing, including Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, Marlowe's *Tamburlaine*, and Shakespeare's *Othello*, providing a richer understanding of how crusading's narrative shaped the beginning of the modern era. This first full-length examination of English crusading literature will be an essential resource for the study of crusading in literary and historical contexts.

LEE MANION is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Missouri, Columbia. He is author of "The Loss of the Holy Land and *Sir Isumbras*: Literary Contributions to Fourteenth-Century Crusade Discourse," *Speculum* 85.1 (2010) and "Sovereign Recognition: Contesting Political Claims in the *Alliterative Morte Arthure* and *The Awntyrs off Arthur*," *Law and Sovereignty in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*, ed. Robert S. Sturges (2011).

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*For my parents, Barbara and Basil
And for Abby, my morning and evening star*

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