

MODERNIST EMPATHY

This book shows how reading modernist literature gives us a fresh and necessary insight into both the tensions within the empathetic imagination and the idea of empathy itself. Writers such as Thomas Hardy, Ford Madox Ford, Mary Borden, T. S. Eliot, and Virginia Woolf encourage us to enter other perspectives even as they question the boundaries between self and other and, hence, the very possibility of empathy. Eve C. Sorum maintains that we must think through this complex literary heritage, focusing on the geographic and elegiac modes of the empathetic imagination, and revealing empathy as more fraught, threatening, and even uncanny than it first appears. *Modernist Empathy* thereby forges a theory of literary empathy as an act not of orientation, but of disorientation, thereby enriching our contemporary understanding of both modernist literature and the concept of literary empathy.

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Geography, Elegy, and the Uncanny

EVE C. SORUM

University of Massachusetts Boston



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Illustration

- 1 Thomas Hardy, Drawing facing “In a Eweleaze near Weatherbury.” *Wessex Poems and Other Verses*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1899. 181. *page 46*

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