Acknowledgements

During the writing of this book I have benefited from the intellectual inspiration and encouragement of many people. I cannot even imagine having written this book without the help of Al Lingis and Charles Scott, both of whom, in their very different ways, forced me to rethink everything I thought I knew about ethics. My good friend Michael Deere helped to sharpen my understanding of the work of Jean-Luc Nancy over the course of years of conversations. My colleagues and friends in the wonderfully diverse Philosophy Department at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville have broadened my philosophical horizons, and I am certain that this book is better for it. Carol Macdonald at Edinburgh University Press provided me with so much helpful advice as she guided this project to completion. And Lucian Stone's support has been indispensable; it was he more than anyone else who convinced me that my approach to the question of obligation was important and that it deserved a book-length treatment. I also benefited from the constant encouragement of my brother Ryan Lueck and my mother Mary Lueck, both of whom inquired into the status of my book nearly every time we spoke. And of course I cannot neglect to mention the contributions of Wheatie, Geneviève, Diderik and João-Estêvão (my cats) and Oskar (my dog), all of whom gave me much to smile about as I struggled to give expression to the ideas in this book. Finally, I am grateful beyond words to my partner Jessa Farquhar, who has made my life better in every way.

