

## *Acknowledgments*

*O*VER THE COURSE of researching and writing this book, I have received innumerable acts of kindness and support. My dissertation committee at the University of Chicago, Colin Lucas, Leora Auslander, and Jan Goldstein, has provided and continues to provide assistance both intellectual and practical. Suzanne Desan, Kate Norberg, Lisa Graham, Mack Holt, Orest Ranum, Lynn Hunt, and the anonymous readers for Harvard University Press read all or part of the manuscript at various stages and provided invaluable feedback, assistance, and encouragement. Sarah Hanley, Jay Smith, Tom Kaiser, Jeffrey Merrick, Bryant T. Ragan, Jr., Barbara Diefendorf, James Collins, William Beik, Robert Morrissey, William Sewell, Barbara Bowen, Holly Tucker, Leah Marcus, Lynn Enterline, and François Furet made suggestions about various issues that were extremely helpful. At the University of Chicago, Kate Hammerton, John Shovlin, Stephane Gerson, Elisa Camiscoli, Jennifer Heuer, Megan Miller, Cassandra Bissell, Christophoros Mallouris, Neda Ulaby, Donn McMinn, and Allan Tulchin listened to and often argued with me quite productively. Lauren Berlant talked me through several logjams and pushed me intellectually at crucial junctures. Greta Rensenbrink lived through the stresses and strains, all the while inspiring, challenging, and teaching me. Without her, I cannot imagine this book having happened. While I was in France doing research, Megan Armstrong, Sara Chapman, David

K. Smith, Gregory Brown, Jeffrey Horn, Lisa Perella, Elizabeth Hyde, Leslie Tuttle, and William MacGregor were my community, intellectual and practical. Patrice Higonnet, James Hankins, and Joyce Chaplin at Harvard University, Kathleen McDermott and Kirsten Giebutowski at Harvard University Press, and Lewis Parker and Liz Leiba at Westchester Book Services provided invaluable practical advice and assistance. At Vanderbilt, all of my colleagues in the History Department have been supportive, but I owe special thanks to Matthew Ramsey, Arlene Tuchman, James Epstein, Joel Harrington, Michael Bess, William Caferro, Rowena Olegario, Jane Landers, and Marshall Eakin for encouraging me in various ways. Carolyn Dever, Carla Rensenbrink, Nicole Seymour, Christian Long, Katharine Baker, Jane Crawford, and Bernard Frischer offered advice on logic and style in the final stages. René Marion has been a friend and colleague ever since I met her on an airplane going to Atlanta for the American Historical Association meeting. Kathryn Schwarz taught me all sorts of practical things about getting a book done, and showed me how to make the whole manuscript better.

Institutionally, the National Endowment for the Humanities and American National Can provided fellowship support. While I was a Harper Fellow at the University of Chicago, research funds provided me with the invaluable help of a research assistant, Danielle Levin. A Vanderbilt University Research Grant provided the means for me to take a research leave, while the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, under the guidance of Mona Frederick, gave me an intellectual home during it. The Gender Studies Working Group at Vanderbilt and the Interdisciplinary Group on Early Modern France at the University of Chicago helped me hone my arguments and the presentation of them.

This book in many ways is about families improvising to get through challenging circumstances. My families have always improvised to assist me in all sorts of ways. All four of my parents have provided financial support, intellectual encouragement, and emotional sustenance.

Portions of the material presented here were previously published in the following articles: "Catherine de Médicis and the Performance of Political Motherhood," *Sixteenth Century Journal* 31/3 (Fall 2000): 643–73; and "Discursive Deviance: Sexual Slander and Politics during the Regency of Philippe d'Orléans," *Proceedings of the Western Society for French History*, ed. Barry Rothaus, vol. 29 (2003), 255–62.

# *Perilous Performances*

