

Acknowledgments

Though it can feel like a solitary process, one does not write a book alone. I was able to see this one through because I was held up by the solidarity, friendship, encouragement, criticism, advice, and care of the following people.

At Princeton, I learned much from Ben Baer's keen insight, nimble intellect, and precise questions. Simon Gikandi's rare wisdom and perspective helped me to cultivate critical courage. Nick Nesbitt was a vital interlocutor and consistent ally. Early drafts of material that found its way into this book benefited immensely from conversations with Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Madeleine Dobie, Ann Smock, Emily Apter, Jeffrey Stout, Cornel West, Sandra Bermann, Wendy Belcher, Lital Levy, Susana Draper, and Michael Wood. I am indebted to Eileen Reeves and Valerie Kanka in Princeton's Department of Comparative Literature for moral and tactical support. Bella Brodzki at Sarah Lawrence College pointed me toward this path before I could see it for myself. Thank you.

Now, I am wildly fortunate to work alongside such generous, smart, and kind colleagues in Yale's French Department. In particular, my heartfelt thanks to Alice Kaplan, Christopher Miller, Maurice Samuels, and Pierre Saint-Amand for reading—and rereading!—this manuscript at crucial junctures. Agnès Bolton has done the needful and infinitely more. I am grateful to my undergraduate and graduate students at Yale; their insights into these materials have indelibly changed my own ways of reading and thinking about them. I am also indebted to brilliant and hospitable colleagues and friends whose paths I first crossed in Algeria, especially at les Glycines centre d'études diocésain in Algiers and at the

Centre d'études maghrébines en Algérie in Oran. My deep gratitude to Guillaume Michel, the late Henri Teissier, the late Marcel Bois, Brahim Rouabah, Karim Ouaras, Robert Parks, Nassim Balla, Afifa Bererhi, Nacéra Khiat, Lamis Saïdi, Miloud Yabrir, Samira Negrouche, Djamel Hachi, Jim House, Elizabeth Perego, Samuel Anderson, Sami Everett, Naoual Belakhdar, and Pauline Poupart.

Elizabeth Ault at Duke University Press is an inspired and impeccable editor. I am immensely grateful to her and to the two anonymous readers whose astute feedback helped me to clarify every aspect of this book. My admiration and gratitude to Walid Bouchakour and Doyle Calhoun for their very fine attention to stylistic and linguistic details of the manuscript, and to Neil Belakhdar for his sharp-eyed expertise.

Research for this project has been supported by the American Institute for Maghrib Studies, the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, the Yale Whitney Humanities Center Griswold Faculty Research Fund, the Frederick W. Hilles Publication Fund of Yale University, the Junior Faculty Manuscript Colloquium fund from Yale Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and the Yale MacMillan Center.

A thousand thanks to those who have buoyed my spirits, asked the right questions, offered refuge and sustenance, and celebrated with me at milestones throughout this long marathon: Cate Reilly, Francisco Robles, Brahim El Guabli, Kameron Collins, Gavin Arnall, Melissa Gonzalez, Jill Richards, Marta Figlerowicz, Cajetan Iheka, Sunny Xiang, Robin Dembroff, Morgane Cadieu, Christophe Schuwey, Melissa Febos, Shelly Oria, Cara Gardner, Jeannette Zimmer, Jesse Newman, Erin Blankeny Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg, Marie Constance Hountondji, Kanchuka Dharmasiri, and Yemisi Damisah. And to Fadwa Saïdi, a beloved friend and gifted teacher of Arabic who left this world too soon.

Finally, thank you to my family for providing me with both the freedom and the love necessary to sustain me through this work—including the nonhumans, Otis and Eliot, who have sat so faithfully beside my desk from beginning to end, watching over every word.