

## Preface

This book is a revised version of my doctoral dissertation, which was prepared for McGill University (2013) under the supervision of the late Professor Ellen Bradshaw Aitken. Based on the advice from my committee, the section analyzing in detail many specific instances of epiphany in the romance novels has been removed and will be published as a separate paper. New to this version is the analysis of antagonism in John (chapter four), which was first presented as “The Cup Which the Father has Given: Divine–Mortal Antagonism and the Christological Implications of Genre” at The Gospel of John as Genre Mosaic Conference, June 23–26, 2014, in Aarhus, Denmark, and takes into account some of the feedback I received during that presentation.

I could not have completed this book without the careful eyes and the warm friendship of my Writing Group. Sara Parks and Shayna Sheinfeld have read this work almost as many times as I have and were invaluable to me, not only in pointing out flaws in logic or spelling, but also in being my constant cheerleaders and bosom friends.

I owe considerable appreciation to many teachers and colleagues for their help. Among them, Lawrence Wills made his careful and insightful comments on a previous version of this manuscript. Ian

Henderson, Gerbern Oegema, and Patricia Kirkpatrick provided helpful feedback on the content. Lynn Kozak was also generous in her evaluation of my sources and argument. Of course, the mistakes that remain in this book are wholly mine.

I am especially grateful for the insights I received from Ellen Aitken, who was a font of support and wisdom for the many years leading up to this project, and I am grateful that I was able to share the news of this book with her before her untimely passing. Her encouragement, criticism, and expertise have been incredibly valuable in all of my scholarship. Words cannot express my gratitude for her mentorship or the scope of my grief at her recent loss. I count myself as fortunate to have been her friend and student.

To my husband Mike goes the final expression of gratitude. I thank him for his patience and his love, which he could not help but give.