

I dedicate my book with gratitude
to my parents
and

to three teachers

Wolfgang Iser, J. Hillis Miller, and Hayden V. White

Stand me now and ever in good stead.

Labour is blossoming or dancing . . .

.....
How can we know the dancer from the dance?
—W. B. Yeats, “Among School Children”

The very being of writing (the meaning of the labor that constitutes it) is to keep the question *Who is speaking?* from ever being answered.

—Roland Barthes, *S/Z*

You are trying to reconcile the book and the author. A book is the writer's secret life, the dark twin of a man: you can't reconcile them.

—William Faulkner, *Mosquitoes*

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