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Advance praise for the book

“This moving and powerful book explores in intricate detail the spiritual consequences for women of early forms of sexual abuse and trauma. It is hard to imagine a more important subject for contemporary Americans. Manlowe's thorough scholarship and original, probing interviews will make her wonderful book a lasting contribution.” — Charles B. Strozier, author of Apocalypse: On the Psychology of Fundamentalism in America

The relationship between Christian religious discourse, incest, and eating disorders reveals an important, and so far unexamined, psychosocial phenomenon. Drawing from interviews with incest survivors whose sexual and religious backgrounds are intimately connected with their problematic relationship with food, Jennifer Manlowe here illuminates the connections between female body, weight, and appetite preoccupations.

Manlowe offers social and psychological insights into the multilayered nature of these most profound and most common forms of female suffering—incest and body hatred. The volume is intended as a resource for professionals, advocates, friends of survivors, and most importantly, the survivor of incest herself as she attempts to understand the links of meaning in her mind between her incest experience and her subsequent eating disorder.

JENNIFER L. MANLOWE has taught in the psychology departments at the University of Rhode Island and at Bryant College, and tutors in psychology, violence, and gender at Harvard University. She is an advocate for women in prison dealing with HIV/AIDS, addiction recovery, and sexual abuse and is the program coordinator of the Brown University AIDS Program.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS
Washington Square • New York, NY 10003