A number of individuals supported the research and writing of this book. In addition to reading sections of the manuscript, Chris Eagle conceived the title. I resisted it initially, but eventually came around to embrace it. I am grateful to the following friends and colleagues who donated their time to read drafts at various stages of the project: Chris Fleming, Lindsay Tuggle, Diego Bubbio, Chris Danta, Peggy Kamuf, Bonnie Honig, Margaret Harris, and Lori Marso. Their thoughtful responses were invaluable in strengthening the book’s argument. I am always especially thankful for eleventh-hour interventions, and on this occasion I owe Jennifer Milne for drawing my attention to the gendering of von Max’s painting (not to mention the many delicious dinners provided by her and James Morley). Several chapters were first presented at Brown University, DePaul University, and the University of New South Wales. On each occasion my work was greeted with an enthusiasm and keen discernment that challenged and honed my thinking. As always, I thank my family: Linda Hoffman-Peterson, John Peterson, Ann Peterson-Miller, Elizabeth Peterson, and Geoffrey Peterson.

I am especially fortunate to have been guided by the attentive editorial direction of Thomas Lay at Fordham University Press. I am also indebted to J. Hillis Miller and two anonymous reviewers for reading the manuscript and providing insightful suggestions for revision. The sudden loss of Helen Tartar in 2014 was shared and mourned by many Fordham authors. I find some consolation in believing that she would be pleased with how Tom and Richard Morrison have ably carried forth her extraordinary legacy. I also want to thank Michael Koch for his vigilant editorial support during the book’s production and Suzanne Gupps for her assistance with the index.

Chapters 2 and 3, as well as a section of chapter 1, were previously published in modified form. A shorter version of chapter 2 was published under the title “The Home of Friday: Coetzee’s Foe,” in Textual Practice, online first, 2015; reprinted by permission of the publisher Taylor and Francis Ltd., www.tandfonline.com. A shorter version of chapter 3 was