## Contents

List of Illustrations, viii

Acknowledgments, ix

Introduction, 1

Reading and the Creation of the (Protestant) Private Spirit, 23

Authoring the Private Self: Reading in Seventeenth-Century Conversion Narratives, 49

"Extasies in Letters": Reading Personal Letters in Print, 74

4
Margaret Cavendish and the Virtues of Publication, 94

5 Discovery, Pornography, and the Novel: Aphra Behn's *Love-Letters Between a Nobleman and His Sister*, 131

Conclusion, 163

Notes, 169 Bibliography, 195 Index, 215