

CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	vii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	ix
1. Introduction	
Scope of the Study	1
The Critical Map	4
Narratives of Virginit	9
2. Perpetual Incorruption in Corruptible Flesh: Towards a Theory of Virginit	
Medieval Terms	16
Modern Terms	31
3. Performing Virginit: The Katherine Group	
Binaries of Sanctity	42
Virgin Martyr Legends	46
The AB Texts	51
Virgins and Romance	57
<i>Sponsae Christi</i>	66
Sex, Violence and Spectacle	74
More Hagiographic Virginites	98
4. Containing Virginit: The Veil and the Wall	
Some Parameters	107
Gendering Nuns	115
The Monastic Self in the Community	120
The Veil and the Virgin Individual	127
The Wall and the Virgin Community	136
The Nun of Watton	152
5. Like A Virgin? The <i>Book of Margery Kempe</i>	
Placing Margery	166
Modes and Techniques of the <i>Book</i>	170
Reclaiming Virginit	180
Hagiographic and Other Models	186
Margery and the Virgin Martyrs	195

CONTENTS

Continuities and Ruptures	201
Martyrdom and Closure	206
Suffering and Penitence	208
Martyrdom by Slander	212
White Clothes	217
Relationships, Sexuality and Desire	224
Final Remarks	240
Conclusion	242
Bibliography	245
<i>Index</i>	270