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Contemporary
American Memoirs
in Action

How to Do Things with Memoir

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is the result of exploring new paths and trying things out in the company of willing and inspiring partners. My introduction to the field of life-writing came in the form of a proposal that involved collaboration and so proved irresistible. Laurie Langbauer suggested we develop and teach a course together. Her interest in women's literature coupled with mine in writing led to the first-year seminar, "Reading and Writing Women's Lives: Autobiography, Biography, Autoethnography, and Personal Essay." I got hooked on memoir once my students started writing their own, and this project gradually emerged.

Through a partnership between University of North Carolina (UNC) and King's College London, I met Max Saunders, Brian Hurwitz, and Neil Vickers, and discovered the global network of scholars working in all genres of life-writing connected to the International Autobiography Association. I thank them for their many conversations and opportunities for exchange (and anticipate many others) which supported this book's development.

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