Why does the position of the threshold exert such a compelling hold on our imaginative lives? Why is it a resonant space, and so urgently the place of writing – the place where one may remain, avoid speaking or naming, yet speak from? Through a combination of case studies and theoretical investigations, *Thinking on Thresholds* addresses these questions and speaks to the imaginative power of the threshold as a productive space in literature and art.

‘Borders suggest both crossings and blockades, but they are not a place to pause, as a threshold is. This book luminously explores a large range of such pauses in literature, art and music – moments of hesitation between physical spaces, between languages, between cultures, between texts, between stories, between then and now, between sleep and waking, between life and death, between gods and humans. The critical and theoretical approaches represented are rich and varied, and most marvellous of all, the threshold never becomes simply a metaphor or remains simply a solid location. That, among other things, is what thinking on it means.’ —Michael Wood, Professor of Comparative Literature and Acting Associate Chair, Department of English, Princeton University

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‘In essay after mind-stretching essay, this book demonstrates the virtues of lingering on the threshold, that enigmatic in-between space in life and art which frames our encounters even as it shapes the ways we think.’ —Richard Scholar, Fellow in French, Oriel College, University of Oxford, and author of *Montaigne, the Art of Free-Thinking*.

‘This collection of vividly written and critically lively essays re-invigorates the notion of the “threshold” in unexpectedly fresh ways. It skilfully illustrates how a theoretical concept can be applied to a variety of texts, issues and disciplines through essays that are imaginative, astute and immensely pleasurable to read. The appeal of the book is the balance achieved between intellectual depth and accessibility; this is thoughtful, engaging scholarship.’ —Tamara L. Follini, Clare College, Cambridge

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