

# Contents

Introduction .....	9
Chapter One: Narcissus and Echo in Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> .....	19
1.1. The Origins of Narcissus .....	21
1.2. Echo — the Power of Language .....	23
1.3. Narcissus at the Spring .....	27
1.4. Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> — Poetic Fiction or a Tale with Cultural Relevance? .....	42
Chapter Two: The Myth of Narcissus in the Context of Courtly Love .....	47
2.1. The Precepts of Courtly Love Retrospectively — Marguerite de Navarre's <i>Heptaméron</i> .....	51
2.2. Bernart de Ventadorn and his <i>Domnas</i> .....	66
2.3. Heinrich von Morungen and the Broken Mirror .....	81
2.4. Petrarcha's Laurels .....	88
2.5. Are Ovid's Narcissus and Guillaume's Amant Two Sides of the Same Coin? — <i>Le roman de la rose</i> by Guillaume de Lorris .....	94
2.5.1. Allegory .....	95
2.5.2. <i>Locus amoenus</i> .....	98
2.5.3. Narcissus .....	100
2.5.4. Amant and the Crystals .....	103
2.5.5. Plato's Cave .....	106
2.5.6. Guillaume's "Superior Reality" .....	107
2.5.7. The Rose .....	110
2.6. Narcissistic Women and Men in the Doctrine of Courtly Love .....	113
Chapter Three: The Motif of Self-Knowledge in Female Mystical Writings .....	117
3.1. The Lives of Three Women Mystics .....	120
3.2. Female Mysticism and the Established Church .....	123
3.3. The Metaphor of the Mirror .....	129
3.3.1. Hildegard von Bingen .....	129
3.3.2. Mechthild von Magdeburg .....	133

## The Myth of Narcissus and its Reception in Western Culture

3.4. The Mystical Union .....	141
3.4.1. Mechthild von Magdeburg .....	141
3.4.2. Hadewijch van Antwerpen .....	152
3.5. Medieval Female Mystics and Their (Narcissistic?) Mirrors .....	163
Chapter Four: Incest as an Instance of Narcissistic Desire .....	166
4.1. The Anima, Animus and Androgyny .....	168
4.2. The Concept of Incest and the Origins of the Incest Taboo .....	171
4.3. The Exchange of Women. Twin Cross-Dressing in Robert de Blois' <i>Floris et Liriope</i> .....	179
4.4. Twin Incest in "Wälsungenblut" by Thomas Mann .....	196
4.4.1. Thomas Mann's Relation to Psychoanalysis and his Myth Concept	198
4.4.2. The Wälsung Twins as Decadent Narcissists .....	200
4.5. Incestuous and Homosexual Desire(s) in <i>Les Bienveillantes</i> by Jonathan Littell .....	213
4.5.1. Debates around <i>Les Bienveillantes</i> .....	215
4.5.2. Littell's Narcissistic Pervert .....	222
4.6. Narcissistic Incestuous Desire throughout the Ages .....	242
Conclusions .....	244
Works Cited .....	249
Name Index .....	263