THE THEORY AND INTERPRETATION OF NARRATIVE SERIES
For
Elaine
Meaghan and Caelin
Application [is] always of necessity a sort of vulgarization, a smaller thing than theory.

—Henry James, *The Tragic Muse*

Kristeva’s work reminds us that theory is inseparable from practice—that theory evolves out of practice and is modified by further practice. . . .

—Leon S. Roudiez, introduction to Julia Kristeva, *Desire in Language*

No theoretical problem can be resolved without concrete historical material.

—M. M. Bakhtin, “The *Bildungsroman* and Its Significance in the History of Realism”
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My wife, Elaine, has put up with this other woman in the house for lo, these many years, and it has been at her urging and with her aid, comfort, and support that we have finally managed to get rid of plain, saucy Jane. My daughter, Meaghan, and son, Caelin, have been equally supportive—and impatient. Caelin says he can hardly remember when the small ghostly presence was not in the house, and especially in my study.

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