

What might have been is an abstraction
Remaining a perpetual possibility
Only in a world of speculation.

T S Eliot, 'Burnt Norton', *Four Quartets*.

Notice to Indigenous Readers

Some nineteenth and early twentieth-century words and phrases quoted in this book are considered offensive by today's standards. In repeating these words I mean no disrespect nor wish to cause any offence to Aboriginal people.

This text taken from *In the Eye of the Beholder: What Six Nineteenth-century Women Tell Us About Indigenous Authority and Identity*, by Barbara Dawson, published 2014 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.