

SIBLING ROMANCE IN AMERICAN
FICTION, 1835–1900

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Emily E. VanDette

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Dedicated to Scott, Joseph, and Elspeth
for their *awes-tacular* love

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FIGURES

- 1.1 Brother and Sister (Mary and Gerald Thayer), Abbott Handerson Thayer. Courtesy of Smithsonian American Art Museum/Art Resource 2
- 1.1 Masthead of *The Youth's Companion* in 1866, illustrating what appears to be a brother and sister sharing the magazine. While the masthead changed many times over the course of the magazine's century-long existence, it usually depicted a brother and sister reading together 33
- 1.2 The image of a brother and sister leaning upon one another and rapturously pouring over an issue of the magazine, sharing physical space as well as the literacy experience, was an extremely prevalent one on the covers of nineteenth-century children's periodicals. This image is from the cover of *The Youth's Dayspring*, June 1851 34
- 1.3 The sibling pair depicted on the illustrated masthead of *Burke's Weekly for Boys and Girls* places the girl figure in the primary reading position, with her brother deferentially sharing the magazine from behind his seated sister, his hands resting on her shoulders 35
- 1.4 An illustration of the valiant Donald rescuing his sister Dorothy (accessed via Project Gutenberg, www.gutenberg.org). Mary Maples Dodge, in her manifesto for editorial reform in children's magazines, emphasized the importance of high-quality illustrations, which, she said, "should be heartily conceived and well executed; and they must be suggestive, attractive, and epigrammatic" (*St. Nicholas and Mary Maples*

Dodge, 17). Here, the heroic image of Donald bravely saving his sister from a nearly fatal horse-riding accident is suggestive indeed of the context of brotherly devotion as the context for manly heroism

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