CONTENTS

Acknowledgments .................. ix
The Inside Story ................... xi

1. A PLACE BY THE FIRE ............. 1
   The Common Touch ............... 1
   A Place by the Fire ............. 7
   The Walled City ................. 12
   Hard at Work ................... 16
   The Rites of Pleasure .......... 20

2. A TOUCHABLE GOD ................. 27
   A Tactile Cosmology ............. 27
   Mystical Touch ................... 29
   Gestures of Piety ............... 31
   The Cult of Relics .............. 35
   Corpus Christi ................. 41
   Ordeals by Fire ................. 43

3. PAINFUL TIMES ..................... 47
   Suffering Bodies and Healing Hands .... 47
   Blind Touch ....................... 51
   Leprosy, the Black Death, and Dancing Mania .... 56
   The Uses of Pain ............... 60
   The Torments of Hell .......... 64
   Sorrow and Compassion ......... 68
4. A WOMAN’S TOUCH ............ 71
   Male and Female Bodies ........ 71
   A Woman’s Touch ................ 75
   Women’s Work ..................... 77
   Women’s Work ..................... 77
   Texts and Textiles ............... 81
   Mystical Raptures
   and Pain Craft ................. 85
   The Witch’s Touch ............... 90

5. ANIMAL SKINS ............... 93
   Animal Bodies .................... 93
   Animal Companions .............. 98
   Beasts, Wild Men, and Slaves ... 103
   Animal Souls ..................... 109
   Experimentation and the
   Campaign Against Cruelty ....... 117

6. TACTILE ARTS ................ 123
   The Aesthetics of Touch ....... 123
   The Feel of Art ................. 126
   Crafty Ladies .................... 133
   Touch in the Museum .......... 136

7. THE MODERN TOUCH .......... 147
   Petrarach’s Vision .............. 147
   The Decline of Sacred Touch ... 148
   New Sensory Worlds ............. 153
   The Persistence of Touch ...... 158
   The Finishing Touch ............ 165

8. SENSATIONS OF A NEW AGE .. 167
   The Drill ......................... 167
   The School, the Prison,
   and the Museum ............... 171
   The Feel of the City .......... 178
   The Electric Creed ............. 183
   Touch at Home ................. 186
   The Stuff of Dreams .......... 191
   Bibliography ................... 199
   Index .......................... 221

Illustrations follow page 122