CARICATURE AND REALISM IN THE ROMANTIC NOVEL

What was caricature to novelists in the Romantic period? Why does Jane Austen call Mr Dashwood's wife 'a strong caricature of *him*self'? Why does Mary Shelley describe the body of Frankenstein's creature as 'in proportion', but then 'distorted in its proportions' – and does caricature have anything to do with it? This book answers those questions, shifting our understanding of 'caricature' as a literary-critical term in the decades when 'the English novel' was first defined and canonised as a distinct literary entity. Novels incorporated caricature talk and anti-caricature rhetoric to tell readers what different realisms purported to show them. Recovering the period's concept of caricature, *Caricature and Realism in the Romantic Novel* sheds light on formal realism's self-reflexivity about the 'caricature' of artifice, exaggeration and imagination. This title is part of the Flip it Open Programme and may also be available on Open Access. Check our website Cambridge Core for details.

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009274265

DOI: 10.1017/9781009274227

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009274227

First published 2023

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

ISBN 978-1-009-27426-5 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-27424-1 Paperback

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