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From the myths and legends that fashioned the identities of ancient city-states to the diversity of literary performance in contemporary cities around the world, literature and the city are inseparably entwined. The international team of scholars in this volume offers a comprehensive, accessible survey of the literary city, exploring the myriad cities that authors create and the genres in which cities appear. Early chapters consider the literary legacies of historical and symbolic cities from antiquity to the early modern period. Subsequent chapters consider the importance of literature to the rise of the urban public sphere; the affective experience of city life; the interplay of the urban landscape and memory; the form of the literary city and its responsiveness to social, cultural and technological change; dystopian, nocturnal, pastoral and sublime cities; cities shaped by colonialism and postcolonialism; and the cities of economic, sexual, cultural and linguistic outsiders.

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About the Author

Kevin R. McNamara is Professor of Literature at the University of Houston, Clear Lake. He is the author of *Urban Verbs: Arts and Discourses of American Cities* (1996) and the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of Los Angeles* (2010). McNamara has published more than twenty articles primarily on cities and urban culture in such journals as *Arizona Quarterly*, *Canadian Review of American Studies*, *College Literature*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Criticism*, *Interactions*, the *Journal of Urban History*, and *Prospects*. His work has also been published in the *Encyclopedia of American Studies* ('The Idea of the City'), *A Concise Companion to American Studies* ('Regionalism'), and collections edited in the United States, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Turkey.

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