

*Miss Kansas City*

ALSO BY JOAN FRANK:  
*Boys Keep Being Born: Stories*

# Miss Kansas City

*A Novel*

**Joan Frank**

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS  
ANN ARBOR

Copyright © 2006 by Joan Frank  
All rights reserved  
Published in the United States of America by  
The University of Michigan Press  
Manufactured in the United States of America  
☺ Printed on acid-free paper

2009 2008 2007 2006 4 3 2 1

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system,  
or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical,  
or otherwise, without the written permission of the publisher.

*A CIP catalog record for this book is available from the British Library.*

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Frank, Joan

Miss Kansas City : a novel / Joan Frank.

p. cm.

ISBN-13: 978-0-472-11575-4 (acid-free paper)

ISBN-10: 0-472-11575-8 (acid-free paper)

1. Editors—Fiction. I. Title.

PS3606.R38M57 2006

813'.6—dc22

2006008021

Excerpts from MEMOIRS OF HADRIAN by Marguerite Yourcenar. Copyright © 1954, renewed  
1982 by Marguerite Yourcenar. Reprinted by permission of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, LLC.

Marguerite Yourcenar, MÉMOIRES D'HADRIEN, © Editions Gallimard, Paris.

In memory:

Marion Lippe

c. 1918–1961

Robert Frank

1920–1974

## Acknowledgments

*T*hanks to my first readers: Bob Duxbury, Ianthe Brautigan, and the late, beloved Deborah Mansergh Gardiner.

To the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Anthony Doerr, Bob Fogarty, Lynn Freed, Molly Giles, David Kezur, and Margot Livesey, for generous support.

To Dr. Davis Mannino, for unhesitating provision of information.

To Chris Hebert and his staff, for impeccable guidance.

And most of all to Laura Kasischke and Eileen Pollack, for saying Yes.