

**PART III**

THE ART OF  
SELF-SURRENDER



# 7

## The Swerve of Passion

Love what you will never believe twice.

—Alain Badiou

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This far I have focused on processes of self-fashioning that allow us to cultivate our character as well as on genres of self-experience that allow us to take responsibility for that character. But there is another way to understand what it means to hear the call of our character, and it takes us in the seemingly opposite direction of self-surrender. I say *seemingly* because the final section of this book is devoted to illustrating that self-surrender can be an essential component of self-fashioning—that there are times when the most effective way to access our character is to suspend the relatively organized structure of our identity by letting ourselves fall into a less organized state of being. In the chapters that follow, I present some ways to think about this in the context of everyday life. But first I want to examine what is perhaps the most thrilling