The Virtues of Our Vices

The Virtues of Our Vices

A Modest Defense of Gossip, Rudeness, and Other Bad Habits

Emrys Westacott

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

Princeton and Oxford

Copyright © 2012 by Princeton University Press

Published by Princeton University Press, 41 William Street,
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

In the United Kingdom: Princeton University Press, 6 Oxford Street,
Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1TW

press.princeton.edu

All Rights Reserved

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Westacott, Emrys.

The virtues of our vices : a modest defense of gossip, rudeness, and other bad habits /
Emrys Westacott.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-691-14199-2 (hardcover : alk. paper) 1. Vices. 2. Conduct of life.

I. Title.

BJ1534.W47 2012

179.8—dc22

2011006595

British Library Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available

This book has been composed in Garamond Premier Pro and Raleigh Gothic

Printed on acid-free paper. ∞

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

To Vicky