Dear Lisa,

I really enjoyed your chapter and think the overall organization of it works. The last four or five pages are the best—the most detailed and finely grained and thus the most convincing.

Here are my recommendations for revision:

p. 1: These adjectives “persuasive, evocative, and lyrical” are great but I did not find them fully explicated or proven in the text. You need more close reading to show these aspects of her writing. Spritiuality is there but you need to provide more detail to prove the part about “political engagement.’

p. 2 Explain in more detail why we cannot fully examine all that she did. Explain to what extent we know some of her writing is lost. Are there lists of missing works? Do we know for a fact that she wrote more?

p. 4: Why did she go to Pisa? What did she do there?

That 2/3 of her letters were written to men suggests her engagement with the world of power.

p. 5: I would make these 3 separate paragraphs: 1 on the mixing of registers. You need more examples to prove this. 2 on the sending of letters on to multiple recipients. Do we have multiple copies of some letters? Is this an example of scribal publication? 3 a paragraph on what Catherine wrote about preserving her letters.

p. 6: I am not convinced by your argument about “civic mindedness.” I think these economic metaphors show her emersion in a mercantile society. But where is the civic mindedness in this? You need to talk about her good works.

About the “debitore”—how do we know that he was a homosexual ? How does Catherine treat his homosexuality? Or is that not an issue?

p. 7: You need to write more on the letter to the prostitute. It would help if you were to actually quote the text and get into it in more detail. This is too much of a summary.

Where did Catherine’s financial support come from?

p. 10: You need to explain the sentence that begins: “For Catherine, the hand and the tongue must work in harmony.” This is a little awkward. What is meant here? What is the reference to Humbert? Explain.

P 12: Are there any other letters that speak about the topic of self knowledge?

p. 13: Add more of a methodological introduction to the section on “The Corpus of Letters.”

p. 15 : Can you write more about Neri di Landoccio. He sounds crucial. Do we have his writings? Did she read them?

16: How often if at all does Catherine use the tu form?

p. 18: Do we have any letters written to Catherine?

20: You mention Bartolomeo Dominici? Where did they travel together to? What was the purpose of their travel?

22: More information on Ospedale della Scalla needed to explain the good works there.

Overall a great start. The overall structure works.