Table of Contents

Preface	ix
Introduction: The Sacrificial Ritual	1
Part I. The Practice of Sacrifice	1
Part II. The Theory of Sacrifice	7
Chapter 1: The Ideal in Baudelaire's Spleen et Idéal	15
Part I. A Vision of Order and Beauty	21
Part II. "Glissement": Disorder Leaks into Order	31
Part III. The Cycle of Disorder and Women	37
Part IV. A Spectacle of Writing and a Sacrificial Ritual	65
Part V. Conclusion	75
Chapter 2: Zola and His Heroines: Nana, Albine, and Christine	87
Part I. Nana: A Tripartite Structure	89
Part II. Comparisons with La Faute de l'abbé Mouret and L'Oeuvre	<i>2</i> 103
Part III. Conclusion: Sacrifice and the Realist Order	148
Chapter 3: Cocteau's Oedipus in La Machine infernale	159
Part I. Identity in the Eye of the Father, in Sophocles, and in Freud	160
Part II. The Transition from Order to Disorder	185
Part III. Disorder and the Sphinx: Poetic Release	196
Part IV. The Sacrifice of the Female	206
Conclusion: The Role of the Fictional Female	217
Bibliography	225
General Index	237
Index of Baudelaire's Poems	241
Index of Critics	242