Contents

Introduction: Risk Theory and Narrative Fiction – An Interdisciplinary
Overview —— 1

Part I Survival Against the Odds: The Rise of Risk in the 18th-century Novel

1	Calculating a New View of Life —— 43
1.1	Probability, Chance, and the Spirit of Quantification — 43
1.2	A Projecting Age: Speculation, Credit, Gambling — 53
1.3	Realism, Uncertainties, and the Early Novel —— 61
2	Defoe and his Protagonists at Large in the Risk Society —— 71
2.1	Calculations of Survival and Fear: Robinson Crusoe — 71
2.2	Risk Management and Human Behaviour in Times of Crisis: A Journal of the Plague Year —— 98
2.3	Marriage, Crime, and the Hazards of Women: Moll Flanders —— 118
2.4	Possession, Paranoia, and the Risk of the Past: <i>Roxana, The Fortunate Mistress</i> —— 131
3	Swift, Smollett, Sterne, and Walpole: Fears of Masculinity and Parodies of Calculation —— 147
3.1	Of Man's Control by Speculation and Fear: Gulliver's Travels —— 147
3.2	Risky Games and the Disorder of Passion: <i>Roderick</i> Random —— 162
3.3	Individualism, Parental Anxiety, and Fears of Destruction: <i>Tristran Shandy</i> —— 178
3.4	Overwhelming Fears and Struggles for Authority: <i>The Castle of Otranto</i> —— 201

Picturing Female Youth at Risk: Camilla --- 217

Part II Out of the Ordinary: The Gamble of Life in the 19th-century Novel

	•
5	Old and New Concerns —— 253
5.1	Cinderella 'At Sea': Persuasion —— 253
5.2	The Risk of Our Creation: Frankenstein, or the Modern
	Prometheus —— 270
6	Precariousness, Accidents, and Divisions —— 286
6.1	Industrial Novels and the Victorian Risk Society — 286
6.2	Suffering From Unmanageable Risk: Mary Barton — 301
6.3	The Danger of Power Relations: Shirley — 310
6.4	No Way Out of Coketown: Hard Times — 320
6.5	Dealing with Change and Loss: North and South — 329
7	Epic Tales of Ambition and Speculation —— 339
7.1	New Money and Marriage Plots —— 339
7.2	More Losses than Gains: The Way We Live Now 345
7.3	Gambling for Self and Happiness: Daniel Deronda — 363
8	The Dangers of Human Nature and the Struggle Between the
	Sexes —— 381
8.1	The Female Body as Risk: Tess of the d'Urbervilles — 381
8.2	'An Irrevocable Oath is Risky': Marriage and Death in Jude the Obscure — 400
8.3	Drowning in Modern Life: The Whirlpool — 416
Part	Crisis and Contingency: Threats to Humanity in the 20 th - and 21 st -century Novel
9	A Sense of Endings —— 433
9.1	'Madness or Despair': The Secret Agent — 433
9.2	'Panic and Emptiness': Howards End —— 451
9.3	Ordinary Apocalypse: Coming Up For Air —— 467
10	Gendered Routines of Risk-Taking —— 483
10.1	'If You Don't Weaken': Saturday Night and Sunday Morning —— 483
10.2	Illusions of Safe Space: The Swimming-Pool Library — 501

11	Running Out of Time —— 520
11.1	Posthumans Coming of Age: Never Let Me Go 520
11.2	The Ticking Bomb of Denial and Inertia: Solar —— 537
12	Domestic (In)securities —— 555
12.1	'Or you can be happy if you dare': Saturday — 555
12.2	'The bullet of an ordinary life': Arlington Park —— 571
Epilog	ue 587
Works	Cited —— 596
	Primary Works — 596
	Secondary Sources —— 600
Subjec	t Index 655

Index of Persons — 663