## **CONTENTS**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS xi

Introduction: What Is Degenerative Realism? 1
Something in the Air 8
Some Notes on Realism 19
Chapter Summaries 27

- Demography and Survival in Twenty-First-Century
   France 32
   The Worrisome Census: Demography and Dread 36
   Degeneration: The New Old Anguish 42
   Social Darwinism and Le Grand Remplacement 52
   Stalemate Sex and 9/11 as Castration 56
   The Future Is Female 72
- 2. Endarkenment from the Minitel to the Internet 81

  From Minitel to Internet 84

  Bellanger's Information Science Realism 91

  Sex and Le Minitel rose 101

  From Mysticism to Conspiracy Theory 104

## CONTENTS

- 3. Real-Time Realism, Part 1: Journalistic Immediacy
   Jean Raspail's The Camp of the Saints (1973): A Precursor
   Journalism and the New Social Novel 135
   The Global Event: Beyond the fait divers 149
- 4. Real-Time Realism, Part 2: Le roman post-pamphlétaire 158

  The Features of littérature pamphlétaire 161

  A Case Study: Michel Houellebecq's Submission (2015) 166

Conclusion

Novel as Nation: Forms of Parallel Decay 182

NOTES 191

BIBLIOGRAPHY 239

INDEX 261