

## *Acknowledgments*

Thanks are due to everybody at Edinburgh University Press, starting with Gillian Leslie. Your enthusiasm and support came at a complicated time in my life. It's good to know there are people out there who are not only highly competent but human beings at the core. I am also thankful to Eddie Clark and Sam Johnson for their help throughout, and to Anita Joseph for the attention she brought to the manuscript.

Because the scope of this book was much broader than my previous ones, I ended up exploiting my friends and colleagues even more than usual. All kidding aside, this project has convinced me more than ever that research in the humanities is a collective enterprise, an ongoing discussion, a process that depends on exchanges with people we read and meet. I'd like to thank Jean-François Baillon, Zachary Baqué, Eve Benhamou, Vincent Deville, German Duarte Penaranda, Jean-Paul Gabilliet, Gilles Menegaldo, Céline Murillo, Philippe Ragel, Mathilde Rogez, Marine Soubeille and Dennis Tredy for their help with bibliographical material and their expertise on specific points, Daniel Yacavone in particular for pointing the way to both Werner Wolf and Edinburgh University Press. I am especially grateful to Janet Staiger for reading the book proposal, and to Celestino Deleyto, Christophe Gelly, Julien Achemchame, Mehdi Achouche, Claire Cornillon, Sarah Hatchuel, Jules Sandeau, Dominique Sipièrre and Shannon Wells-Lassagne for reading one or more chapters. This book largely benefited from your comments and insights.

It also benefited from interactions with my students at the University of Texas at Austin, Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès and Université Paul Valéry Montpellier 3. Teaching metafiction and metacinema certainly helped me refine my theoretical and methodological propositions, and my analyses of the corpus.

More than ever, this book is dedicated to my family and friends, to my brother Alain and my sister Stephanie, to my partner Virginie and our children Lisa and Tim, and to the memory of loved ones lost.