

CONTENTS

Preface xi

Acknowledgments xvii

List of Abbreviations xix

Introduction: Learning to Die 1

1 The Augmentation of the Complexity and
Intensity of the Field of Intelligent Life:

The Potential Ex-Human of *The Left Hand of Darkness* 31

2 Desperate Measures: Justifiable Despair in
The Three-Body Problem and *Oryx and Crake* 59

3 Inherit the Wasteland: Or, How I Learned to Stop
Worrying and Cede the Planet to the Smart Machines 105

4 Better Children: Octavia Butler and Genetic Destiny 147

Epilogue: Just Kill Me Now 199

Notes 217

Index 271

