## Contents

**List of illustrations**  
*page x*

**Acknowledgments**  
*x*

### Introduction

1. Sensibility, history and the novel  
   *page 5*

2. 'The house of bondage': sentimentalism and the problem of slavery  
   *page 49*

3. 'Delight in misery': sentimentalism, amelioration and slavery  
   *page 87*

4. 'An easy, speedy and universal medium': canals, commerce and virtue  
   *page 129*

5. 'Recovering the path of virtue': the politics of prostitution and the sentimental novel  
   *page 160*

6. 'The dangerous tendency of novels' and the controversy of sentimentalism  
   *page 190*

**Notes**  
*page 222*

**Index**  
*page 259*