

Contents

Preface / vii

Acknowledgments / xi

Abbreviations / xiii

Chapter 1. Landscape of Memory: The Orchard Keeper (1965) / 1

Consuming the Wilderness: Dispossessing the Mountain People / 3

The TVA: Eviction in the Valley / 18

Evading the Law: Whiskey Blockading / 23

The Voice of the Land / 28

Defending the Orchard: Arthur Ownby / 37

Defending the Orchard: Marion Sylder / 49

Defending the Orchard: John Wesley Rattner / 55

Chapter 2. Cosmic Estrangement: Outer Dark (1968) / 62

The Cosmic Shadowland: Culla / 75

Amnion of Light: Rinthy / 79

Flood, Mud, and Swamp: Turbid Water / 83

Bound by Nothin: Outlaws and Archons / 87

The Dark Necessity of Psyche / 92

Rinthy, Tinker, Culla, Seer: Gnosis and Nothingness / 100

The Wilderness Nightmare: Gnostic "Ecology" / 113

Current Ferries, Rural Squires, and Hog Drives:

Realistic Underpinnings / 124

Chapter 3. The Cave of Oblivion: Child of God (1974) / 134

James Blevins, Lookout Mountain Voyeur / 138

Ed Gein, Plainfield Necrophile / 144

Voyeur, Necrophile, *Psycho*: Novel, Script, and Film / 146

McCarthy in Sevier County / 153

- The Cave as Leviathan / 156
Platonic Intimations: The Descent into Materialism / 158
Failure of Vision and the Love of Material Bodies / 160
Voyeurism, Narcissism, and the Opportunity for Self-Recognition / 165
Celestial Intimations and the Oracles of Dreams / 169
The Heedless Blacksmith and the Origin of Evil / 172

*Chapter 4. Stranger in the Garden of Industry: The Gardener's
Son (1977) / 176*

- The Weaver God and the Material Factory / 178
The Revolt / 182
The Trial and the Lie of the World / 185
The Condemned Man and the Question of Gnosis / 189

Chapter 5. Prisoner in Babylon: Suttree (1979) / 194

- Gnostic/Existentialist *Suttree* / 198
The Dream-Frame: *Suttree* as Narrator / 202
Hallucinated Recollections: The Album of the Dead / 217
"This obscure purgatory" / 226
Apprentice Felons, Apprentice Predators / 234
The Prison of Erotic Attraction / 238
The Rage for Justice / 251
"Babbling gospelarity" and the Spiritual Wound / 256

Notes / 271

Works Cited / 293

Index / 303