

# Contents



*Introduction* / ix

## **One. LIFE IN THE SOUTH**

*Why I Live Where I Live* / 3

*New Orleans Mon Amour* / 10

*The City of the Dead* / 23

*Going Back to Georgia* / 26

*Mississippi: The Fallen Paradise* / 39

*Uncle Will* / 53

*Uncle Will's House* / 63

*A Better Louisiana* / 67

*The American War* / 71

*Red, White, and Blue-Gray* / 77

*Stoicism in the South* / 83

*A Southern View* / 89

*The Southern Moderate* / 94

*Bourbon* / 102

## Two. SCIENCE, LANGUAGE, LITERATURE

- Is a Theory of Man Possible?* / 111
- Naming and Being* / 130
- The State of the Novel: Dying Art or New Science?* / 139
- Novel-Writing in an Apocalyptic Time* / 153
- How to Be an American Novelist in Spite of Being*
- Southern and Catholic* / 168
- From Facts to Fiction* / 186
- Physician as Novelist* / 191
- Herman Melville* / 197
- Diagnosing the Modern Malaise* / 204
- Eudora Welty in Jackson* / 222
- Foreword to A Confederacy of Dunces* / 224
- Rediscovering A Canticle for Leibowitz* / 227
- The Movie Magazine: A Low "Slick"* / 234
- Accepting the National Book Award for*
- The Moviegoer* / 245
- Concerning Love in the Ruins* / 247
- The Coming Crisis in Psychiatry* / 251
- The Culture Critics* / 263
- The Fateful Rift: The San Andreas Fault*
- in the Modern Mind* / 271

## Three. MORALITY AND RELIGION

- Culture, the Church, and Evangelization* / 295
- Why Are You a Catholic?* / 304
- A "Cranky Novelist" Reflects on the Church* / 316

<i>The Failure and the Hope</i>	/	326
<i>A View of Abortion, with Something to Offend Everybody</i>	/	340
<i>Foreword to The New Catholics</i>	/	343
<i>If I Had Five Minutes with the Pope</i>	/	346
<i>An Unpublished Letter to the Times</i>	/	349
<i>Another Message in the Bottle</i>	/	352
<i>The Holiness of the Ordinary</i>	/	368

**Epilogue. AN INTERVIEW AND  
A SELF-INTERVIEW**

<i>An Interview with Zoltán Abádi-Nagy</i>	/	373
<i>Questions They Never Asked Me</i>	/	397
<i>Bibliography and Notes</i>	/	425