

# Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	11
Ethics, deconstruction and postmodern gnosis.....	24
Historical background.....	27
2. Trials of the Truth: <i>Welcome to Hard Times, The Book of Daniel and Ragtime</i> .....	35
Postmodern ethics and narrative ethics.....	38
Narrative ethics in history and fiction.....	39
Myth, antimyth, and the ethics of lamentation .....	42
The aesthetics of truthfulness.....	45
<i>Welcome to Hard Times</i> .....	46
<i>The Book of Daniel</i> .....	53
<i>Ragtime</i> .....	64
3. An Intuition of the Self: <i>Loon Lake and Billy Bathgate</i> .....	81
Emerson and Jung.....	92
<i>Loon Lake</i> .....	96
<i>Billy Bathgate</i> .....	112
4. The Ethics of Narrating Gnosis: <i>The Waterworks and City of God</i> .....	127
Definitions of Gnosticism.....	131
Gnosis and the Kabbalah .....	134
Postmodern Gnosticism.....	138
<i>The Waterworks</i> .....	143
<i>City of God</i> .....	152
5. The Ethical Challenge in Difference.....	175
Bibliography .....	179