

CONTENTS

List of Photographs	ix
Acknowledgements	x
Preface	xi
Selective Chronology	xv
1 The Early Years (1922–39)	1
2 Oxford and the War Years (1940–7)	23
3 A Promising Young Novelist (1946–53)	53
4 A Comic World (1954–8)	59
<i>Lucky Jim</i> (1954)	60
<i>The ‘Angry Young Man’ in Retrospect</i>	75
<i>That Uncertain Feeling</i> (1955)	83
<i>I Like It Here</i> (1958)	101
5 Dimmer View (1959–60)	109
<i>Take A Girl Like You</i> (1960)	109
6 Disillusionment (1961–8)	129
<i>One Fat Englishman</i> (1963)	132
<i>The Anti-Death League</i> (1966)	143
<i>I Want It Now</i> (1968)	155

Contents

7 A Nightmare World (1969–74)	163
<i>The Green Man</i> (1969)	165
<i>Girl, 20</i> (1971)	174
<i>The Riverside Villas Murder</i> (1973)	180
<i>Ending Up</i> (1974)	186
8 The Destruction of Beliefs (1975–80)	197
<i>The Alteration</i> (1976)	197
<i>Jake's Thing</i> (1978)	207
<i>Russian Hide-and-Seek</i> (1980)	212
9 The Perspective of Years (1981–90)	225
<i>Stanley and the Women</i> (1984)	226
<i>The Old Devils</i> (1986)	241
<i>Difficulties with Girls</i> (1988)	251
<i>The Folks That Live on the Hill</i> (1990)	260
Epilogue	267
Notes	270
Bibliography	293
Index	296