

SYNOPSIS

# APPALACHIA

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APPALACHIA is set in the small town of Snydersville, NY, where the Erie Railroad industry left long ago, but its residents stayed behind. They raise families, go to school, and try to make ends meet with the low income blue-collar positions that remain. But with the pressures of the daily grind, one family in Snydersville is at its boiling point.

In a normal family, the father is a role model and provider. BILLY MCCLOSKEY is none of these things. Instead he is shameful; having killed a man in a drunken rage, he is now banished to imprisonment on the outskirts of town.

His son, Pete McCloskey, left to fend for himself with his older brother Troy, is in a prison of his own, caught in the awkward period between boyhood and manhood. Pete struggles to find his own identity and at the same time avert anyone's knowledge of his mangled family tree.

Until one day, when the father and son reunite. Pete finds new solace in visiting his father, who, against Pete's prejudices, listens and provides his son with the fatherly advice he needs on love, loneliness and ambition. Pete finds himself torn between building a future somewhere beyond the borders of town, or making do within it to be close to his father. But in living only vicariously through Pete, there is no freedom for Billy McCloskey -- until he makes the ultimate sacrifice in order to set his own son free.