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Epiphany as a central theme in four novels of Patrick White

Geoffrey David Cains

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PREFACE

This thesis examines four novels of Patrick White from a religious viewpoint. In particular the importance of epiphany and illumination, not previously emphasised by White scholars, is assessed. The joy of reading Patrick White's fiction has been enhanced for me by the theme of revelation. I also acknowledge James Joyce's earlier exploration of the concepts of epiphany.

I wish to acknowledge the support and assistance of my supervisor, Professor John Ryan, of the University of New England, and to thank him for his encouragement during the work on this thesis. The novels of Patrick White have generated much critical interest over the last fifty years and I acknowledge the work of others in this field. I also thank the staff at various libraries in Sydney and Armidale for their kind assistance during this research. Lastly my thanks are due to my family, especially to my daughter Emma, for her help with editing, and to my wife Sarah, for her support and patience during the completion of this work.