

Contents of Divisions in Cormac McCarthy's *The Crossing*

I

3-9 (3) The Parham family rides into Grant County, New Mexico, it is open country, Boyd is very small, in the night, Billy whispers plans to the sleeping Boyd, Billy hears wolves in the night, dresses, goes out, (4) seven wolves are herding an antelope, (5) Billy doesn't tell Boyd of the wolves, Boyd turns fourteen this winter, the boys go out for wood, Boyd rides on a travois that carries their wood, at the river Boyd crosses paths with an Indian man, (6) who first says "You little son of a bitch," Boyd has disturbed the Indian's hunting, (7) he wants Billy to bring him food from their house, says to confine their dog, (8) to bring the food and walk towards the moon, (9) they will do it, but maybe it's not a perfectly good thing to do.

9-16 (9) The boys wait until the moon rises, take food out to the Indian, (10) the Indian eats, wants to know what else is in their house, (11) asks after rifle ammunition, wants coffee beans, (12) he wants Billy to leave Boyd until Billy comes back with coffee, Billy says no, and the Indian asks if they have any traps, wants sugar, the boys head back to the house deciding not to return to the Indian, abandoning a cup from the house with him, (13) in the morning, their father says their dog is in the smokehouse, Billy lets him out, rides over to the Indian camp, and the man's fire is cold, Billy's horse is nervous, (14) the father had ridden all night, the boys talk to each other about the Indian, his Mexican boots, they get their horses, Billy checks on Boyd's, (15) Billy asks Boyd a horse question, the father says a wolf has killed a calf, (16) they know the wolf is from Mexico, is a shewolf, they say Mr. Echols could have caught her.

16-20 (16) The father and boys ride to the SK Bar ranch to see Mr. Sanders, who listens to their story, (17) Sanders gives them the keys to Echols's cabin, who has moved away, to borrow his traps, they look at his mixtures of scents, and take some, (18) they find and borrow eight traps, go back to Sanders's, (19) they talk about the wolf, and Echols, the scent baits, back home they boil the traps, in the night Billy looks out at the moonlit southern landscape, (20) Boyd says he can hear Billy even when he's silent.

20-24 (20) The father wears gloves, an apron, rubs beeswax on the traps, tells Billy to wax the rest, they are riding south before the sun clears the mountains, (21) the father and Billy return to a calf found dead five days ago, coyotes have torn at it, the wolf has not returned, there are ravens, (22) the two ride on, Billy watches the ravens, who go back to the dead calf, the father sets a trap with extreme care that his scent is not present, (23) the father asks if Billy thinks he can "make a set," and soon they have three more, (24) they talk about the wolf, that it's out of Mexico, ride the traps until hours after dark, the father puts up the horses.

24-36 (24) The wolf's path from Mexico is outlined, and that her mate had been caught in a trap in the mountains of Sonora, and that she would not leave until after he had bitten her, (25) that with wild game virtually gone wolves now have only cattle for food, that this wolf with her first litter is looking for companion wolves, and she studies an antelope as if to hunt it on the Animas Plains, (26) she finds wolf scent when she finds one of the Parham trap sets, and she follows their horses' scents, finds all the rest of their traps, goes back and uncovers the first one, and the father re-makes it the next day, (27) the father and Billy go back to Mr. Sanders's, they get six more of Echols's traps, boil them, Boyd waxes them, Boyd is in "the doghouse" (over the lost cup?), the father asks about "sulled up," Billy offers to say something to their father, Boyd says no, (28) Boyd declines the father's offer to ride the traps with him and Billy, Billy tells him to get his coat and go, they ride, Boyd gets cold, a cow has stepped in a trap, but has dragged its leg out, (29) the next day, Billy and Boyd find the injured cow, Boyd ropes her, she tears his saddle from his horse, and the saddle is dragged until it comes apart, the father asks Boyd when he'd last checked his girth, (30) Billy rides checking the traps by himself, another cow has been caught, but has not been injured, it snows two feet, Billy wants to check the traps, his mother tells him to be back by dark, he rides the horse Bird, his father loans him a rifle in case he needs to shoot the wolf, he also says not to be late, (31) Billy finds wolf tracks in the new snow in the mountains, he tries to envision her, (32) he finds that the wolf has killed another cow, has been feeding on it, the horse is skittish near the place, he follows the wolf tracks, (33) he comes on three vaqueros eating their dinner in the open at a fire, they talk about a wolf, they give him some coffee, they talk of cattle, they clean their plates into the fire's ashes, Billy follows the wolf further, he turns toward home with an hour until sunset, (34) it's at dark when he gets home, he tells of the dead cow, his father says to set more traps tomorrow, coyotes call in the night, in the bedroom, Boyd asks if Billy thinks he'll catch the wolf, says he'd like to see it, (35) coyotes are calling, the dog is barking and the father calls to it and it quits, Boyd tells Billy he has twice had a dream of a fire on a dry lake, and that people were burning, (36) Boyd has the feeling something bad is coming, Billy says to forget it.

36-39 (36) Billy checks traps, moves toward Hog Canyon, to Cloverdale Road, (37-39) meets a man driving a Model A pickup who talks about not getting married, who tells story about Texans hollow but for shit and wind.

39-41 (39) A coyote is dead of fright in a trap, all rest are sprung, cattle are dead, (40) "Echols silent" to the father's letter, more dead cattle, Billy goes to Echols' cabin, takes some nameless bottles of scent, (41) next day traps are again all sprung.

41-49 (41) Billy rides to Animas seven hours, to talk to Don Arnulfo, (42) to find out about trapping wolves, (43-44) "historia...desgraciada," Billy has some "Number Seven Matrix," (45) the man says there are no more wolves, (45-46) talks about blood and wolves and seriousness, (47) talks of man and God, (47-49) Billy and the woman caring for Don Arnulfo talk about him.

49-72 (49) Billy runs the traps, all are sprung, the wolf has been digging in the ashes of the men's cookfire, (50) and Billy sets a trap under its still-warm ashes, (51) back home, he's late, father says everyone has a "reason," but the reason is "their word's no good," (52-56) the next day, the wolf is caught in the trap, and Billy gets a rope on it, to lead it, (57) Billy looks for his horse, (58-61) Billy (again) meets the rancher with the Model A, they talk about Billy, the wolf, (62) Billy goes on, before Cloverdale heads south, (63) Billy curses something, "all of it," (64-65) Billy defends the wolf from dogs, (65-70) Billy loses his horse, men go for it, Billy eats with the rancher (who has the dogs) and his wife, (70-71) she gets a Mexican man to look at the wolf's hurt leg, (72) Billy rides on.

72-107 (72-73) Billy rides, stops at evening, makes a fire, eats, watches the wolf, it sneezes on them, (73) he waters the wolf, feels her puppies move, (74) rides into Sonora, (75-76) talks to a man, (76) watches her again, (76-77) shoots a rabbit for her, but she does not eat, (77-80) wolf almost gets loose, (80-81) he makes a muzzle for her, (82) he sleeps, alert about the wolf, (83) he feeds the wolf, (84) the presence of the wolf scares burros, (84-88) Billy meets an old woman and a young girl smoking, they talk about the wolf, the old woman about the men of the country, about the country, (88-89) Billy shoots a turkey, he and the wolf eat, (89-90) they meet five mounted and armed men, the men ask about buying the wolf, Billy declines, (91) Billy and the wolf travel on, (92-93) at the Bavispe River Valley, they meet six miners carrying a dead seventh miner back home, (93) they travel, (93-95) they ford a river with difficulty, (95-98) two armed horsemen (deputies) stop Billy, take him, the horse, the wolf, to the mozo, the alguacil, (98) they put the wolf in a shed, (99) the mozo tells Billy the wolf is seized as contraband, (99-101) it is taken and tied to the bed of a cart, (101-103) Billy is told the wolf is being taken to a fair, he travels there with a caravan, (104) at the settlement, the fair, the wolf is in a tent on display for money, (105) Billy finds the wolf chained, talks his heart promises to her, the tent is struck, (106) the wolf is moved on, the alguacil and his party, in silver trimmed clothes, (107) travel the road after the wolf.

107-127 (107) At a hacienda at the flats of the Batopito River, Billy is given food, sees the cart driver, (108) finds the wolf chained in an empty horse stall, the alguacil and his party return, dogs smell wolf-scent on the cart, (109) the cart mule runs wild from the dogs, the alguacil and his men laugh, stop the cart, the alguacil gives the cartman a coin, tosses one to Billy, who does not try to catch it, (110), Billy says he wants the wolf, refuses the coin, is told he can't see the wolf without permission, (111) guests, men, are preparing for the fair, (112) Billy sleeps in a stall and dreams of his father, men drag the wolf from her stall, (113) the wolf is taken to a cockfighting arena, (114) dogs are brought to fight her, (115) Billy leaves the arena, finds two Airedales set to later fight the wolf, (116) Billy re-enters the arena, (117) unchains the wolf, (118) Billy tells his story to the haciendado's son and the crowd, (119) the son answers, (120) Billy re-chains the wolf, leaves, (121) he returns to the arena with his rifle, (122) the Airedales are set to fight her next, Billy shoots the wolf, (123) the alguacil says it is over, Billy gives his rifle that the wolf's hide not be taken, (124) Billy gathers up the wolf, rides out of town, fair fireworks begin, (125) Billy comes

to a junction of rivers at dusk, fords, sings songs from his father, a corrido in Spanish from his grandmother, (126) he rides, and near dawn is high in the Pilares, makes a fire, washes blood from the wolf, sleeps a while, (127) still dark, Billy touches the wolf, closes his eyes and dream-prays of the wolf as she had lived.

II

129-158 (129) Billy has buried the wolf and her unborn pups, made a bow and arrows, rides in high country for weeks, grows thin, shoots a hawk with an arrow, (130) grows a little lost, later rides into the town El Tigre, (130-132) a woman feeds him, they talk, (132) the woman's sister comes and looks silently at Billy, (132-134) he rides on, meets Indians who help him, has an old man counsel him against his wanderings, about the heart, (134) Billy goes on, (135) looks down on the Carretas plain, (135-136) dreams of wild men coming to him, (136) cares for his horses, recognizes that the horse might leave him, (137) he fords a river and discards his bow in it, rides into a town sinking back into mud, is hailed at a ruined church by a sandy-haired, blue-eyed man in both Spanish and English, (138-139) Billy goes into the man's room at the church, with "cats of every color," the man serves (something like) coffee, offers eggs, (139) "You are lost," the man says, says he was a Mormon boy, (140) is now caretaker of the church, (141) the two say they're each "passin through," (142) the man talks about God, about "a doll, a dish, a bone," (143) the man tells a story of an old man, the cats sleep, (144) more story of the man who had a young son whom he took with him as he travelled, (145) and the child was killed in a "terremoto" (earthquake), (146) the man took the dead child home, began travelling, (147) the man became a heretic, worked carrying messages for others in a satchel, (148) the man grew older, old, (149) the man dreamed of God, woke weeping, traveled to Caborca, saw again the church of La Purisma Concepción de Nuestra Señora Caborca, much destroyed by flooding, its dome held aloft on three points only, (150) he walked around in the damaged church reading his bible, talking to God, the man "an old hermit," (151) the man talking to God about "lines...drawn and respected," the priest came, but did not go into the dangerous building, his church, and the two, both of them stated their cases, (152-153) the sandy-haired man's and Billy's views on the old man, the priest, and God, (154) the man speaks of "witness," of "madness," (155) in the end, the old man became ill, and was visited by the priest, who was driven away, (156-157) the man speaks of God and man, of priests, (157-158) and the storyteller alludes that he had been the story's "priest," closes his story on "witness," on "grace."

159-159 Billy decides to ride north to his family, says goodbye to the sandy-haired man.

159-163 (159-161) Travels to Bacerac, a town with empty streets, is fed well ("He thought he'd been mistaken for someone else."), sleeps, people are polite, hardly speak, (161-163) travels to Bavispe, Colonia de Oaxaca, spits in front of the alguacil's house, it storms, ice, rain, next day he crosses the border at Douglas, Arizona, catches a coin tossed to him by the border guard.

163-164 (163) On the road to Cloverdale, comes to his empty family home, (164) eats canned peaches, sleeps, rides to see old man Sanders at the SK Bar.

165-165 Back at his home, Billy flips the mattress off his parents' bed and sees a bloodstain under all of it.

165-170 (165-166) At the sheriff's office, he hears of horse tracks, of two men, (167) the men Indians, that Boyd hid, asks if the sheriff has jurisdiction in Mexico, (168) is offered the family papers, Billy talks about horse papers, "on Niño and that Bailey horse," (169) takes two papers, (170) Billy described as "something out of the past."

170-183 (170) Billy goes to where Boyd is staying (the Webster's, 179), sees the dog, sees Boyd, (171) Boyd is taller, gets tears, they leave riding double, with the dog, with food and a shotgun from the house, (172) Billy talks about being an outlaw, (173) Boyd says the killers called for him by name, a rider approaches, (174) a rider sent out by Mr. Boruff to talk to these two, who say they are passing through, the man says he knows who they are, (175) the rider says he knows the dog's throat was cut, later, Boyd says to Billy "no use you askin" about the killings, (176) talk about law in Mexico, (177) Billy says "It wasn't nobody's fault," says Boyd's silence will drive him crazy, Boyd looks "fourteen" and more, (178) Billy leaves money to repay the border guard, they cross into Mexico, (179) buy supplies and cookware, (180) it rains on them, ride through Morelos, on the same road Billy had taken "to the fair in the spring of that same year so long ago," (181) they find "their horse Keno" saddled at a house, Billy unsaddles it and gives it to Boyd to lead away, (182) Billy goes into the house, sees a dead woman with mourners, (183) talks to a man in the house.

183-214 (183) Billy tells Boyd he'd said the horse was stolen by Indians, and the man had ridden off to find them, (184) an old man draws them a map in the dust, (184-186) and men who had seen it drawn laugh at it as fantastical, but discuss maps and journeys and successes, (187) the boys ride east, meet a man sent from a nearby house to greet them, but who does not extend the invitation once he sees them, (188) they ride on through mountains, (189) Boyd asks Billy about horses and their sense of location, (190-191) they ride generally toward a hacienda, meet vaqueros from the place, (192-193) meet Tarahumara Indians, are given food, (193) cross the Casas Grandes River, (194) into Casas Grandes, it has electric lights, a railroad, Boyd is "sulled up," (195) Billy asks after "a ganadero named Soto," but gets no information, next day finds his offices in town, (196) Boyd seems "sullin up," Billy goes into Soto's office, (197) talks to the man's partner Gillian, looking for the Indians who'd sold the Keno horse, (198) Boyd comes in from the street, (199) Boyd tells Gillian his parents were killed and the horses were stolen by Indians, Gillian says the story is "preposterous," (200) Gillian says the horses were auctioned by La Babícora, owned by Hearst, (201) they talk about the difficulty of finding a man in Mexico, (202) Gillian talks about the past as past, with no "remedy," (203) they ride south, see a young girl carrying a bundle on her head, (204) later, the girl passes them, crying, and still later, they overtake her, Billy asks if she wants to ride, (205) Billy asks

Boyd if he's scared of girls, they pass a jacal with an orange "slutlamp," wondering if that is where she lives, and they meet her again on the road, offer to carry her bundle, she looks at Boyd, but she declines, they go on, two men ride past, (206) Billy and Boyd ride back, to check on the girl, see a fire, the two men, the girl, (207) the men are not overly welcoming, one is drinking, (208) the men talk, recognize that it is the girl's presence that had turned Billy and Boyd back, (209) the man drinking talks of the girl, the other drinks, tosses the bottle to Billy, (210) Billy drinks, horses run through the camp, Boyd rides through, leading Billy's horse, the girl is helped onto Billy's horse, (211) one of the two men comes with a knife, Billy mounts, is slashed at, cutting boot and trouser, they ride out, (212) the brothers talk about being followed, (213) they ride and then camp, she cooks breakfast, (214) they ride on, to the hacienda of San Diego, at the Casas Grandes River, and the Piedras Verdes.

III

215-231 (215) They ride to the hacienda, into the courtyard, meet a two wagon circus caravan, (216) they see the troupe set up lanterns and a painted backdrop, go on to where they might sleep, (217) reach their rooms, eat with a family named Muñoz, a kind people, (218) the woman of the family tells Billy to go to the show, someone will pay for him, and they walk with others to the show, (219) at the show are the wagons, lamps, mules decorated, in the play a man and woman are killed by a man "in buffoon's motley," (220) early in the morning Billy goes down to the river, sees the show's primadonna bathe, later rides out to see the country, at noon the opera company leaves for Mata Ortíz, Las Varas, Babícora, (221) Billy watches them leave, later walks through the old residencia, at evening the Muñoz woman brings him his boot mended, (222) the girl works in the fields, asks if she can go with them, "he" [Billy] says no, the Muñoz woman gives Billy coins as he leaves, (223) the girl rides double with Boyd as they go, they overtake the opera company camped on the road, (224) find that a mule is dead and the men are gone, (225) Billy asks the primadonna if they can help, (226) she says a drunken man had killed the mule with a machete, (227) she says she was stopped from shooting the dying mule, says she is no gypsy, (228) she talks about gypsies, gives Billy a message to carry to others of her party, (229) she talks about the man who is Punchinello (the one in motley), Billy asks why she dies in the play, she answers on the difficulty of dying night after night for the same "reason" (jealousy), (229-230) speaks of the values of "smaller things," she speaks of brothers on the road, (231) on leaving, Billy touches the brim of his hat, the primadonna gestures with her fan.

231-234 (231) They camp, the girl cooks, they ride out in the morning, to a river at noon, (232) see boys swimming naked in the river, the girl waters the horses, Billy fixes a nail in Boyd's boot, (233) Boyd asks Billy if he thinks the girl saw the naked boys, Billy says so what, she's seen this before, Billy says he had seen the opera woman naked, Boyd is not comfortable, (234) Boyd asks if maybe they should have stayed back at the hacienda, Billy talks of finding the stolen horses.

234-238 (234) They ride three days toward Namiquipa, (234-236) a man with oxen talks to Billy at a river, about oxen, about horses, about willingness, back at camp Boyd talks about loaning the girl a horse to ride to see her mother at Namiquipa, Billy says no, (237) they talk about her, about Boyd maybe going off with her, (238) Boyd says (remotely) it could be possible, she rides off on Boyd's horse.

238-255 (238) They ride double on Billy's horse, ride past three men, two of whom watch them, the boys talk about the difficulty of recognizing Mexicans, about the ease of Mexicans recognizing them, (239) they ride into the town of Las Varas, it has a rail station, they eat at a cafe, they decline to eat goat, (240) they don't like the food they get, (241) they see good food, and it's goat, they ride on, on the road to Boquilla they come across vaqueros with a thousand steers, the next morning come across their horses Bailey, Tom, Niño, (242) their horses are among half a dozen more, with two riders in charge, their father's horse calls to them, (242-243) Boyd lassoes Niño, (243) the riders in charge tell the brothers to leave their horses alone, (244) Boyd lassoes the Bailey horse, a truck drives by, one of the vaqueros rides off, they get the Tom horse, ride off, (245) they get to Boquilla, and now three more riders are with the original two, and are behind them on the road, (246) Billy gives the horse papers to the one-armed leader of the five, (247) the leader says the papers are valueless, to release the horses, and the brothers do so, (248) the boys talk about what to do, (249) they trail the men and the horses, (250) they camp, trail them the next day, (251) they see the riders at midday, follow, come on a man watching them come down from the road, (252) the man, Quijada, is superintendant of the area for Mr. Simmons, asks their plans, Boyd says "huntin our horses," they follow the man, (253) he tells them to point out their horses from about thirty, (253-254) Boyd is to cut them from the bunch, does so, Quijada says take your horses, writes a paper for them, Billy thanks him, a vaquero calls Boyd a caballero.

255-256 (255) The boys talk about Quijada's paper, about luck, (256) about the girl, about their father.

256-257 (256) They ride into Boquilla, (257) buy grass rope for hackamores, in the store a girl buys cloth for her father's coffin.

257-262 (257) The boys talk about branding horses, (258) Billy works on the hackamores, (259) five men, including the one-armed leader from before, ride up, the boys are on their horses before the others arrive, (260) the one-armed man stops in front of them, Billy says he has a paper on the horses, the man tells a rider to take the horses, (261) Billy spooks the leader's horse, and it rears, and it steps backward, and in turning it falls, the leader is on the ground, there is confusion, (262) the leader's back is broken, Boyd picks up his gun.

262-274 (262) They ride out of town a mile north, then west to a river, they have the five riders' horses as well, (263) Billy takes the others' horses to turn them back to Boquilla, (264) Billy returns to the camp and they ride upcountry, camp fireless, (265) Billy had

found Niño's papers on the leader's horse, (266) they talk about plans, of meeting the girl, of needing to eat, (267) they ride to the pueblito of San José, a woman feeds them, refuses money, they camp in cottonwoods, (268) Billy goes to hunt food, finds ducks on a river, (269) five riders ride by him, he rides back to the cottonwoods camp, Boyd is up without a word, to get the horses, Boyd is shot in the chest, Billy narrowly missed by the same bullet, (270) Billy gets Boyd and himself on Niño, and they flee, (271) the riders, shooting, had hit Bailey, Billy talks to Niño, the two loose horse are following them, they ride on, reach a road, (272) a truck comes on, takes Boyd, they tie his horse on, Billy thanks them, rides on, (273) the riders are less than a hundred yards behind Billy, he passes Bird, who is dispirited, same as the Bailey horse, never sees Tom again, seems to have lost the pursuit, stops, scans for likely water, (274) the horse is faltering, Billy tells it stories, stories in Spanish from his grandmother, then he sings to it, and after a while the horse has cooled, and he rides, and prays for Boyd.

274-300 (274) Billy rides until midnight to a house, a woman answers, her husband is blind, eyeless, (275) she brings milk, eggs, he says he looks for his family's stolen horses, the woman begins stories, (276) that her husband was a prisoner in the revolution, and a German named Wirtz sucked her husband's eyes out of their sockets, (277) some said Wirtz had saved the man's life from a firing squad, others said better dead, the man now blind was in prison and dreamed of the beautiful and promising world vanished, and the blind man said nothing had changed, (278) but all was different, and the woman continues, he was freed by the rebels, that he learned to be sightless, that despair was with him, (279) that he walked to Parral, smelled and felt the rain, that he went "where the road went," "the will of God," a woman took him home to feed him, and he told her, after thought, that he had always been blind, (280) and he left and heard and tried to smell a battle, (280-281) by a river, he had undressed, waded in and tried to drown himself, but a man saw this and assisted him to his clothes, (282) and the man asked why he wanted to die, and the blind man said "many reasons," they smoked cigarettes together, the man said touch my face, (283) the blind man could tell nothing from the touch, they talked of sight and blindness, knowing, limits, the world sentient to its core, the sun, (284) the blind man asked his friend which way to go, the man said north, and the man went on to Parral, Billy is about asleep, the blind man says the tale is not entertainment and not instruction, but only to tell what is true, (285) the blind man talks about stories and principals in stories, and the woman continues her story, that only three on the journey had spoken to the man of his blindness, and that people spoke to him in a new manner, confided in him, and that on the 26th of June drunk Hueristas killed many men of the town of Rodeo, (286) and that the blind man came the day after, and a young girl there took his hand to lead him to the cemetery where a funeral was occurring, and then came another funeral, and another, (287) and they passed yet another on its way to the cemetery, and that only the little girl of her family was left, and she told the story of the day her father and brothers were killed, of the firing squad, the rush to the dying, her sense of aimlessness, that she went to the church, (288) that the sepulcros told her of God and punishment and faces and voices growing dim, and she told of girls dipping their pañuelos in the blood, and of dogs eating at the blood, and the blind man traced her face with his fingers, (289) and she traced his face with her fingers, and he

talked of his darkness, and still another funeral procession passed, and she took him home and gave him her father's clothes, she took some supplies, had him wash from a bucket, gave him an apple, (290) and he ate, and she ate an apple, and they started out on the road together, and Billy says this woman is that girl, and the man says the blind avoid each other's company, and they talk, and Billy asks about the kinds of men such as blinded this man, and the man says no one knows from whence, but that they exist, (291) the man talks of vivid dreams just after the blindness, but that they faded, that he had to begin again, talks of what is near at hand and what is not, (292) and speaks regarding what is visible, Billy asks about the sepulchro's words to the girl, and the man says not to fault him, he spoke as best he could, and the blind man says more of tales, that they are all "dark and light," and that the more one is wicked, the fewer who speak against it, (293) and the man speaks further of evil, of the world, justice, (294) and in the morning the woman is feeding poultry and blackbirds alike, and on the road the dog finds him, has been in a fight, is cut and bloody, Billy asks the dog about Boyd, (295) rides north toward San Diego, asking the dog always "Where's Boyd?," sleeps, but wakes from a troubling dream, a dream of deep snow, a dark house, of wolves, that in the house slept his parents, and Boyd, (296) who wakes, asking Billy not to run off from him, not to leave him, and so Billy wakes from that dream, and it rains within the hour, and rains all day, and he rides into the pueblo Mata Ortíz, (297) Billy stops at "a small blue tienda," and asks a woman if there is a doctor in the place, she says no, but there is one at Casas Grandes, she sees the dog and shoos it outside, and tells Billy "el herido" (for Billy "mi hermano") was alive as he came through town, (298) she says the dog has a worried look, a girl, pretty and shy, gives Billy a silver "milagro" for "El güero herido," Billy touches his hat to the girl, raises his hand to the woman, rides north toward San Diego, (299) Billy arrives, and the Muñoz woman answers that Boyd is alive, is on a pallet inside, with gifts and prayers from the countryside, and the dog is already with him, (300) and, today, Boyd says, he's fifteen, and Billy asks the woman about a doctor, she says an old woman, a bruja, put a poultice on Boyd, and Billy is in Casas Grandes at 3am looking for the doctor.

300-314 (300) Billy talks to the doctor's mozo, (301) the doctor says he will come in his car, Billy offers his horse in payment, and the doctor says no, but Billy can stall his horse there for the time, (302) they start, the car dies, is re-started, the doctor asks about the "accident," and Billy says "shot in the chest with a rifle," (303) they listen to American hillbilly music on the car radio, arrive, the Muñoz woman meets them, the doctor goes to Boyd, (304) examines him, (305) Boyd says to Billy "You don't have to stay," Billy says "I aint goin nowhere," (306) Billy brings the doctor a chair, some water, and a cup of wellwater, (307) Billy drinks from the cup, the doctor washes his hands, they turn Boyd on his side, (308) the doctor checks the poultices, begins arranging his tools, (309) washes in iodine, has the woman remove the poultices, (310) the doctor cleans the wounds, (311) he works on the exit wound, cleaning it, cauterizing it with silver nitrate, (312) he cuts away dead tissue, the dog comes and sits in the room, the doctor cleans the chest wound, tells Billy it is very serious, (313) he bandages and wraps the wounds, says it missed the heart, arteries, there is no great infection, he will come again the next day, shows the woman how to change the dressings, (314) says for the boy to drink lots of water, Billy goes with the

doctor, goes to crank-start the car, Billy offers his horse again, the doctor says stay here, he will send the horse.

315-316 (315) In the morning, Boyd tells Billy to go the Namiquipa for the girl, the doctor's mozo, riding a burro, brings Niño, (316) Billy has the mozo ride Niño, which he does very well, and the mozo rides back on the burro.

316-329 (316) Billy is to leave that evening to see about the girl, the Muñoz woman says the pistol is under Boyd's pillow, (317) the woman says Boyd is "a man of the people," on the trip Billy meets the truck and men who had carried Boyd to San Diego, they all greet warmly, the men had seen Boyd just that morning, and admire him, (318) and the men tell a romantic tale of Boyd killing the man who'd shot him in a gunfight in the street, Billy says he is to blame for these risks to his brother, and the men focus on Boyd as fifteen, and continue their admiration, (319) Billy rides into Boquilla, through La Pinta, into Santa Anna Babícora, west to Namiquipa, exhausted, he sleeps late, sees the girl ride past on the road, (320) when they meet, she asks first if Boyd is dead, gets off the horse and to her knees to thank God, they ride back, (321) they eat, she says she already knows of Boyd, (321-322) she tells of her grandmother widowed three times by the revolution before the age of twenty, (322) she tells the common story of Boyd killing the gerente from Las Veritas, Billy says the manco had broken his back when his horse threw him, (323) she talks of being different in a family, says that she is, Billy says Boyd doesn't remember his grandmother or his dead twin sister, (324) they pass three girls on the road laughing, and she talks to them, "calling them to task," they ride through Boquilla, past where the manco had fallen, and he asks of God's care, (325) and she says one cannot evade it, they camp, he dreams of holding his dying brother, in another country, in rain, in a darkened city, with a dog howling, and, waking from the dream, he goes down to the river and knels, seeing things from his past, (326) the shewolf dead, the arrow-struck hawk's blood, a glass hearse, the castaway bow, the sexton, the hermit in the Caborca church, a lightbulb in the sheetiron wall of a warehouse, a goat with golden horns in a field of mud, and he sees his brother in a place out of reach, and then dawn comes, he stands, and they ride on, and in Las Varas a man comes up to them, (327) Billy recognizes him from the opera caravan, the girl says her brother is in San Diego, Billy asks about the caravan, the man says they never came back, and the girl gives him some coins, which Billy speaks against, and he mounts and rides away, (328) three more days riding to San Diego, she hardly speaks, the last day, she wants to ride on into the night, Boyd is sitting against a wall, the dog moves to him, (329) Boyd speaks first to the smiling girl.

329-330 (329) Billy spends a day by the river, then works with shepherders, getting the sheep to shearing, Boyd now can ride at a walk, goes out with the girl riding Niño, later Billy takes Niño down to the river to wade and drink, (330) Billy is troubled, Boyd seems mending, seems alright.

330-332 (330) Three days later, Boyd and the girl are gone, have left his father's horse Niño, (331) Billy rides looking for them for weeks, into early December, stops at the doctor's office in Casas Grandes, (332) but the doctor is dead.

IV

333-346 (333) Billy crosses the border north at Columbus, New Mexico, is told the country is at war, rides to Deming, (334) cars avoid him, he sleeps in the bus station, goes to a cafe to ask about joining the army, (335) talks to a recruiter, says he's seventeen, (336) recruiter tells him to bring back a signed next-of-kin form, (337), he goes to a cafe to eat, (338) signs the form with a name not his mother's, goes to the doctor, (339) who says Billy has a heart murmur, that he won't get into the army, Billy works at a stable for bus fare to El Paso, goes to the recruiting office there, (340) this doctor finds the heart irregularity, refuses to sign, Billy goes back to Deming, works for another bus fare, to Albuquerque, (341) and is for the third time refused, (342) back in Deming, he goes to the stable, saddles Niño, talks to the groom, rides out, the horse in good shape, (343) rides on, goes to see Mr. Sanders, who asks after Boyd, they eat, (343-344) talk about the granddaughter's cooking, (344) about another fellow 4-F, about some pictures on the wall, (345) they go into the parlor, Sanders tells stories, Billy says he'll try and work ranching somewhere, (346) they both say they like riding at night, Billy leaves.

346-354 (346) Billy works as a hand, three months in a line camp, (347) goes to town, wants to buy a beer, (348) a drunk soldier is at the bar, tries to get a rise out of Billy, (349) barman talks of trying to enlist, Billy drinks his beer and leaves, works nine months, gets set up with a packhorse, bedroll, soogan, rifle, rides to Silver City, the Palace Hotel, (350) all the shops are closed on Christmas Day, works in the Texas panhandle, goes south, rides to the SK Bar, Sanders is older in the last two years, (351) they talk about men in the army, Sanders's eyes, his granddaughter, oncoming rain, Boyd, (352) they talk about rain, about marriage and the married, (353) Billy stays for supper, they talk about Niño, Billy is there in the morning, (354) grooms Niño, goes back to the house to eat, talks to a Mexican woman cooking, asks her to pray for him.

355-363 (355) Billy crosses into Chihuahua from Berendo, two days ride to Janos, (356) goes into a bar, there's music, buys a whiskey, buys one for the barman, (357) buys whiskey for three men at a table drinking mescal, the old one very drunk, Billy buys another round, (358) the old man does not drink, drinks after hearing Billy is a vaquero, finds he is not a soldier, a younger man says the older was wounded many times in the revolution, (359) they drink to the revolution, the old man questions Billy, who dumps out the old man's drink of mescal, and who orders another round of whiskey, Billy says he looks for his brother, whom he has abandoned, though he should not have, several then drink, (360) the drunk old man pours his whiskey on the floor, says the whiskey has "the seal of an oppressive government" and he will not lower himself, (361) Billy orders another round, the barman hesitates, does pour, all drink but the old man, who pours Billy a glass of mescal, Billy drinks it, but spits it on the floor, he orders another round of whiskey, (362) the barman does not respond, Billy pours, pays, walks to the door, stops

when the old man calls, (363) Billy sees the man open his shirt to show the marks of three bullets, Billy takes off his hat, puts it on again, and leaves.

364-373 (364) It begins to rain, Billy stays in town for the night in an unused room, has vomited sick in the night, (365) after he wakes, children point to where his horses have gone, he gives the children a ride back to the road, a woman comes to bring him food, as she's hear there is a sick horseman, (366) they sit and she watches him eat, the children still riding one of the horses around a field, (367) she tells of a son dead twenty years, they talk, she laughs, she will take no money for the food, reads his palm, (368) she laughs with his questions, (369) she says he will have a long life, he asks after his brother, she speaks of God and of evil, (370) he leaves, arrives at San Diego, the Muñoz family is gone, an old man does not know where, he rides toward La Boquilla, (371) makes fire in the wind, rides to Namiquipa, sees a wedding party on the road, (372) enters a building in which lies a dead old man, picks up a flower, (373) puts the flower in a shirt-pocket buttonhole.

373-388 (373) Billy can get no word of the girl, the wedding couple he had seen earlier goes by on a carreta, with "smiles like grimaces," later Billy attends as the old man is taken out and buried, at the house after the burial, a woman comes up and says the girl is a "notorious bandida," has a price on her, who would give silver and jewels to the poor, or that maybe she is dead, (374) she says she knows Billy is the brother of the güerito, she says his brother's bones are in a cemetery at San Buenaventura, he leaves, rides for weeks asking of his brother, (375) hearing rumors, at Madera he goes to a fair, with lights and pitchtents, a wheel with figures spinning, (376) he buys an arcane card, La calavera, and the wheel also picks La calavera, (377) Billy sees beneath the present paint on some canvas the lettering of the old opera caravan, and Billy turns away, (378) he goes to get the horses, rides on, in a week again goes through Babícora, sleeps while the horses water, a man on horseback is there when Billy wakes, who knows him, and whom Billy knows, (379), Billy looks to where the pistol is hidden, the man watches, they talk of death, (380) the man says he has no grudge, no grudge with a man over a woman, has a low opinion of men killing over whores, anyway, "the bitch was dead," later, in mid-May in Casas Grandes, at a hotel, Billy hears a girl sing as she shells pecans, (381), he goes down and speaks to her, asks if she knows other verses to the corrido, she says that in the end the güerito and his novia die, out of ammunition, (382) she gives him some pecans, and she is gone, he rides the Babícora, thinks of Boyd, sees campfires but does not join, (383) late in a day, he comes on a lighted cabin, stops, calls, is invited in, the man is Quijada, is a Yaqui Indian, and is the man who had given the brothers back their horses, and Billy asks if his brother is dead, and the man says yes, (384) and they talk about where and how he died, about the girl, about Hearst and the campesinos, (385) about Quijada, the Babícora, the soul of Mexico, (386) they talk of Boyd, of caring for him, of the corrido, of death and truth and God, (387-388) they talk of people's expectations, Billy says he'd like to take Boyd back north, Quijada says there could be problems, he goes on to talk about the world and naming, the lost, maps.

388-414 (388) Billy rides to San Buenaventura, to the cemetery, (389) finds Boyd's grave, rides back to the church to find someone in charge of the graveyard, (390) talks to an old woman, she will pray for him as for all, next day he rides to the cemetery with a spade, (391) by mid-afternoon is down to the box, tries to remove it with horse and rope, trucks go by, people visit the cemetery, and no one says anything to him as he digs, (392) the box collapses, he removes the cover, opens his bedroll tarp, (393) puts his brother's bones on it, ties them up, closes the grave, stands the cross, decides to take the cross with the body, rides crosscountry, (394) two days later, passes Casas Grandes, past Corralitos, is stopped in the road by four horsemen, Billy says he has his brother's bones, (395) one of the men grabs the packhorse, cuts the bones to the ground, wants money, grabs Niño's bridlereins, (396) the man buries a knife in the horse's chest, Billy dismounts and removes it, uses his hat to stop the bleeding, the man finds Billy's pistol, puts it to Billy's head demanding money, (397) the leader of the men says the bandolero had killed a good horse for no reason, and the four leave, Billy leads the horse into the river, tries to stop the bleeding and can't, gets clay from the riverbank, (398) packs the wound with it, and finally the blood stops, he takes the horse to a grove of trees just off the river, gathers his scattered possessions, his brother's bones, (399) and the wound is bleeding again, and he looks for the packhorse, but does not find it, and no one passes, (400) he dreams of Boyd, knowing Boyd is dead, and Billy cries, and he hears arrieros, checks the horse and it is still alive, (401) lying on its side it cannot drink, Billy goes to talk to the arrieros, Indians or gypsies, with six oxen pulling an airplane on a float, they greet him, go on and stop in an open space, (402) the gypsies look at the wounded horse, talk about buying it, Billy says it is his father's and that he cannot sell, (403) they boil green leaves in water, talk about taking the airplane north, (404) one of the gypsies says there were two planes, this one almost inaccessible for thirty years, and he says the father of the dead pilot had paid to have it brought near to Palomas, (405) the gypsy talks of truth and history, of the airplane as memento, (406) speaks of airplane's identity, they check the boiling "soup," the gypsy speaks of trying to get down to a river on their journey, (407) speaks of airplanes, God, dreamers, parrots, tigers, vultures, rapids in the river, (408) talks of the river and the raft, of a drowned man, (409) of a river and of mud, (410) of the truth of which airplane this is, (411) and of history, and by now the steam is gone from the pail, and the gypsies run a greased hose down the horse's throat, and through a funnel and this hose the liquid from the pail goes into the horse, (412) and the gypsy takes leaves left in the pail and poultices the wound, and the gypsy looks at Boyd's bones and talks to Billy of his own childhood, of his father's cart, of their accumulating unknown peoples' picture portraits, (413) and the gypsy talks of kinfolk and tintypes and the dead, (414) Billy asks how much to pay, but the gypsy waves it off, for "the road."

414-420 (414) The horse stands, is led into the river, and drinks, a man alone rides on the road, stops, Billy speaks, (415) they start talking "american," talk about the horse, about roadagents, the man asks after coffee, Billy offers some supper, the man asks about ("my") his airplane, (416) they eat, talk, the man might ride on, "enjoy to ride at night," the man offers a smoke, (417) Billy says no, conversation turns to the gypsies and to the airplane, the man talks of señoritas and "mamselles over yonder," the man cautions against

mountain lions, (418) but in truth, the man says, he is 4-F, was never over there, says the airplane came out of a barn, that it couldn't fly at mountain altitude, that there was no pilot killed, that he is himself in Mexico getting away from the angry father of a pregnant daughter, that he's been shot twice, most recently in the head, was rescued by two Mennonite women, (419) Billy talks about Boyd, about his father, Texas, Missouri, his mother, her mother, of Margaret, his sister buried at Fort Sumner, and the man thinks he might best go on, and he remarks that Billy's "had [his] share of troubles," (420) to which Billy replies he's been "more fortunate than most," though his brother Boyd was "a born natural," and that his daddy, everyone, knew it.

420-425 (420) Four days later, Boyd's bones ride on a travois as Billy heads north, three days to the border west of Dog Springs, dreams a dream of people moving, not from war, not in flight, (421) and he is separated from them, and they carry no "implements," are silent, are gone, he rides through Hermanas, to Hatchita, crosses the Animas Valley, into Animas on Ash Wednesday, buys a shovel, goes to the cemetery, is digging, the sheriff comes, recognizes Billy, (422) sheriff says he'll talk to a judge about a death certificate, that Billy is to see him in Lordsburg the next day, Billy says yes, and in "Days to come" Billy is in Silver City, Duncan, Arizona, through mountains to Glenwood, to Reserve, again to Silver City, to the Santa Rita Mines, San Lorenzo, the Black Range, there is a wind, the Organ Mountains eighty miles away, with spits of rain, he heads toward "some buildings he'd seen," (423) rain comes in sheets, they are three adobe buildings, he leads the horse into one, waters it, organizes himself, starts eating sardines from a tin, when "a yellow dog" comes in, recognizes first the horse, then "looked at him," the dog "old," a "gray muzzle," "horribly crippled," "head askew," who "moved grotesquely," with "milky half blind eyes," and he can smell it, (424) it goes into the far corner of the room, circles, lies down, and Billy throws mud from his boot at it, but it doesn't leave, he finds a length of pipe, gets the dog outside, throws gravel at it, in the rain throws the pipe at it, it howls "a terrible sound," "not of this earth," "some awful composite of grief," (425) "in its heart's despair until it was gone."

425-426 (425) Billy wakes at noon as a cloud quiets the birds, and it grows cold, he calls for the dog, who is not there, (426) and he is in a growing darkness, with no sound, but "after awhile" there is some sunlight, and it is everywhere.