The Hooper Siblings co-exist to the extent that the must on a Farm in the Southern Appalacians where they don’t do much to take care of themselves. They live off the fortune their dad left them and that forturne is dwinding. Their dad expected it to, so he planted and Orchard of Hazelnut Trees and told them it would sustain them long after he was gone and the patents expired and everyone who owed him money finished making their payments and didn’t anymore. But he didn’t explain right away how bushels and bushels of hazelnuts was going to be of any value at all, much less sustain the seven of them, and by the time the orchard was grown and he was ready to explain, he fell over dead.

The siblings varied wildly in aptitude and disposisiton but each was convinced that they were going to make it big on their own just as their father had done, and w\ere going to leave their mark on the world in some important way and they shared an aversion to mundane work and a believe that their financial well being was a matter preorcianed by birhtright and their own agfgrandized sense of themselves and and aversion to hard work and set purusied whatever interests served their aggrandized notions of themselves and these ranged from Evangelical Christiantisy to Whichcralft and performance art and contructing monumental works of creativeity and each came to guage their own success by the failures of their siblings and none moved from the farm for very long and they tolerated each other to the extent required while the family fortune dwindled.

When a pursuit of a clever chicken ended in tragedy and left their father’s old workshop, turned storage shed in need of major clearing out, Buford discovers a drawing made by his father of a device that he believes to be the key to the secret fortune of the hazelnut orchard. He sets out to build the device and sets a course for disaster for the entire family.

Burford’s son, Wesley, meanwhile, discovers the true secret of the orchard and finds himself in conflict with his witch aunt. Wesley ahs to get past a with, a giant serpent, an aerial wraith, his own dad’s ineptness and mend relations with his dad and the siblings have to come together.