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By the Sound

By Edward DORN.

Black Sparrow, USA, 1991. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 200pp . [In stock in Australia, for immediate delivery] In a brief preface to this, his only novel, Ed Dorn describes *By the Sound* as 'A sociological study of the basement stratum of its time: the never-ending story of hunger and pressing circumstance in a land of excess'. James Randall, reviewing the book in *Ploughshares*, describes it in more concrete detail, and places it in a larger literary tradition: 'One of the things the novel can do for its readers is to extend their range of sympathy, to make them see with clarity groups of people they might otherwise overlook. This is one of the main impulses of writers such as Dreiser, Steinbeck, or Solzhenitsyn, who not only want to record certain kinds of social oppression but also want to correct them. [Another] such writer is Edward Dorn. *By the Sound* is a regional novel . surprisingly conventional in form . whose subject is a hardscrabble place and the ways of those who struggle to live there. One could look to *The Country of the Pointed Firs* and *Winesburg, Ohio* for its literary models. The title refers to Puget Sound in Washington State, and the...


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