



Bad Man Blues

George Garrett

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George Garrett is a talented writer, some may even say gifted, but he would probably grimace at that statement. I say talented because he writes whatever he chooses, in an unusual and sometimes harsh style that cries out, "I dare you to challenge this." There is a rawness and clarity in his writing that is refreshing to those who enjoy a good kick in the literary pants, and for those who gag at triteness and fluff.

He writes what he feels is important, and at times not all that important, in this collection of short stories, essays, and academic anecdotes. *Bad Man Blues* is Garrett's collection of work completed in the past few years and is his twenty-eighth published book. His brashness and wonderful uninhibitedness conjures up images of a worried young man kicking a can down the street, who can't wait to tell you what happened.

Those familiar with Garrett's work will eagerly devour the pages, feeling comfort in his unique style. The unfamiliar will enjoy the strong, and somewhat acquired taste of an honest writer who assembled this rich collection. His ruthless honesty keeps hands turning pages and minds wondering when the next book will come out. Readers seeking quality reading of serious short fiction, or a refreshing look away from the ordinary will enjoy *Bad Man Blues*.

ALAN L. WHITE (January / February 1999)

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