



From an Otherwise Comfortable Room

By Roger Sakowski

Paperback. Condition: New. 236 pages. William Homer Omkowski is an alienated and haunted man who drinks too much. He tells a story that spans a single evening and the following morning, about a loft party he attended in Baltimore forty-some-odd years ago and the tragic event that overshadowed it. But this story is only a framework. Memories, events, delusions, and images with origins that extend back to Creation expand the design into an imposing, if unstable, edifice. His rich, but unsteady, imagination enlivens a vivid tale laced with free associations, stream of consciousness, and poetry. The question asked by the book is: where does one find a comfortable place From Williams point of view, that place is as the hero and legendary bard in an epic. The novel opens with a poem recited by Omkowski. It is a reference to The Song of Amergin, a grand proclamation of the bards claim to Ireland. Omkowskis version is self conscious and diminutive, underscoring his conflict: the demand for a home in which he is celebrated, and the realization that he is aimless and marginally important at best. Juxtaposing references, such as this example, create a subtle and dramatic subtext, an undercurrent so...



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