

Review of Country Music by C.W. Smith in Library Journal

Country Music

Farrar, Straus, and Girous. 339p. \$8.95.

F

The author of *Thin Men of Haddam* (LJ 12/15/73) has written another good Southwestern novel, set in modern West Texas. Main character B.J. Gilbert has a reputation to live down as the town tough who is going nowhere. A girl he was involved with committed suicide, and he has been blamed for her death; this tragedy is always on his mind as he tries to rise above the town's expectations and to improve his life. The story is essentially that of how Gilbert comes to grips with his past. The treatment is very realistic, with highly accurate descriptions of the people, towns, and countryside of West Texas effectively woven into the story. The characters, particularly Gilbert, are convincing. The pace is unusually fast for a psychological novel. Smith is a writer of growing importance whose relevance extends beyond Texas. *Lee Sullenger, Stephen F. Austin State Univ. Lib., Nacogdoches, Tex.*