

Review of *Thin Men of Haddam* by C.W. Smith in *Library Journal*

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SMITH, C. W. *Thin Men of Haddam*.

320p. Grossman, dist. by Viking. Jan.

1974. \$7.95. LC 73-7187. F

Rafael Mendez, raised by an Anglo rancher and given a college education, is caught between the Anglo and Chicano cultures in this first novel set in contemporary West Texas. Well-established among Anglos, giving them the benefit of the doubt and wishing to get on in their society, Mendez still has deep Chicano roots, and is sensitive to the tribulations of adhering to a Spanish surname. He dreams of establishing a cooperative ranch that will let his Chicano friends escape the Anglo yoke. A serious, successful novel, rich in regional detail, with a carefully developed story line and believable characters. Smith is especially convincing in illustrating how the system of discrimination against Chicanos works, and how *La Raza* reacts to it. -*Lee Sal-eager. Stephen F. Ailes State University Library, Nacogdoches, Tex.*