

Review of Vestal Virgin Room by C.W. Smith in Booklist

✓ **Smith, C. W. The Vestal Virgin Room. Sept. 1984. [256p.] Atheneum, \$13.95 (0-689-11494-X). Galley.**

Don and Dottie are a small-time husband-and-wife musical act from the Midwest. They are in the process of making their annual Christmas tour, which this year includes a one-night stand in Las Vegas' Vestal Virgin Room—it could be their big break. The narrative voice shifts between Dottie and Don: the latter is more ironic, has more of the artist in him, while the former is more down to earth and self-aware. We become intimately involved in the details of the couple's life on the road, in their inner states, in their attempts to come to terms with a central fact of their marriage, the death of their only child. Except that their separation toward the end of the book is not quite believable, this novel offers a thoroughly convincing look at sometimes confused but decent, intelligent, loving people. MEQ.

(OCLC)

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