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Review of Ole Edvart Rølvaag

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Ole Edvart Rølvaag. By Ann Moseley. Boise, Idaho: Boise State University Western Writers Series, 1987. Selected bibliography. 53 pp. \$2.95.

This welcome addition to the Western Writers Series differs from other studies on Rølvaag because it attempts to place him within the broader context of American literature rather than strictly within ethnic or geographic boundaries. Moseley argues that Rølvaag, like many American authors before him, successfully combines elements of realism, naturalism, and myth not only to reveal the inherent contradictions in the frontier experience but also to examine universal themes such as the conflict between Old World tradition and New World individuality. The result is a convincing, perceptive, and reliable introduction to Rølvaag's fiction, useful to all students of American literature.

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