Eudora Welty's Aesthetics Of Place
In this study of the particular place from which Eudora Welty’s writing arises, Jan Nordby Gretlund argues for the importance of considering the historical and cultural background for Welty’s literary achievement. Contending that her writing represents the South’s collective experience from the Depression to the present, he demonstrates that Welty’s realistic fiction reveals an aesthetic allegiance to agrarian values. According to Gretlund, her "sense of place" ultimately reflects a sense of how to live. By focusing on her native place, remembering its past, identifying with it, and expressing its essence, Welty discovers and rediscovers herself.

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Customer Reviews

This book is a must for any Welty scholar. It is one of those rare books that I wish I could read again and again. It accomplishes much more than its modest title would suggest. Gretlund has long been one of the most erudite critics of southern lit. Teaching both in Europe and at Ole Miss, he is more objective yet has an insider’s knowledge. This achievement reaffirms his place at the top of literary critics not just in Europe or America but in the world.

Gretlund wrote EUDORA WELTY’S AESTHETICS OF PLACE, and it is a fine book. It is not an edited volume, as the Mississippi reviewer states in his attack. I suggest putting away the bourbon bottle and getting the facts correct before reviewing any more books.
Gretlund has really done all Welty readers a huge favour by writing this book. And for all those of you out there not yet familiar with the writings of Eudora Welty...read this book.


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