

THE BASEMENT: A novel of the 60's
by Sasha Newborn (M.Press)
review by Vera Bazzo

This novel is a reflection (and inditement) of the great changes that took place in the US during the 60's. Viet Nam, Economic Crises, joblessness, the decay of American hegemony... all these led to a total distrust of the old American dream. In consequence, they had to look for a new model to fit their need of peace and love.

This book tells us about the lives of Youth outside the Establishment. It's about a world of outcasts - no jobs, no school, no family, religion, law. They can not really love, although the game of love they play AT often is touchingly beautiful.

No real "chapters" here but a series of small, independent episodes, which style mirrors the psycho-reality of the characters. A great book out of a Hippy-Beat America, that ought to be included right next to ON THE ROAD, THE DHARMA BUMS, Plymell's THE LAST OF THE MOCCASSINS. It's depressing in a way, it is a basement, a basement of the soul.. but that's what the negative aspects of the 50's - 60's are all about, isn't it? When you're NOT on the Road, where are you? IN THE BASEMENT!!!