

Critique

Artis Magazine

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April-May 2005

Robert Crooke paints a vivid picture of American society in the 1950s when the McCarthy Senate Investigations and the House Committee on Un-American Activities needlessly ruined the lives of numerous citizens falsely branded as Communists. In this climate of fear, Joe Gannon is accused of "subversive affiliations" as he champions underprivileged black Americans through development of a low-income housing project in Harlem. The project meets opposition, perhaps most ironically from Charles Stannard, the wealthy father of young Tom Gannon's girlfriend. But Tom doesn't discover this until later as he comes face to face with the adult world of greed, betrayal, bigotry and hatred. In this frequently surprising story, the reader also learns that Joe Gannon's worst opponent is much closer to home.

And as the story concludes, Tom learns a powerful and tragic life lesson that ultimately changes the course of his destiny. His dramatic search for the truth makes American Family the true thriller that it is, and his frantic efforts to find out, at any cost, what really happened to his father, Joe, are unforgettable. This is a compelling and suspenseful tale.