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Sommario/riassunto

The first intensive analysis of sense of place in American mining towns, *Hard as the Rock Itself: Place and Identity in the American Mining Town* provides rare insight into the struggles and rewards of life in these communities. David Robertson contends that these communities - often characterized in scholarly and literary works as derelict, as sources of debasing moral influence, and as scenes of environmental decay - have a strong and enduring sense of place and have even embraced some of the signs of so-called dereliction. Robertson documents the history of Toluca, Illinois; Cokedale, Color
