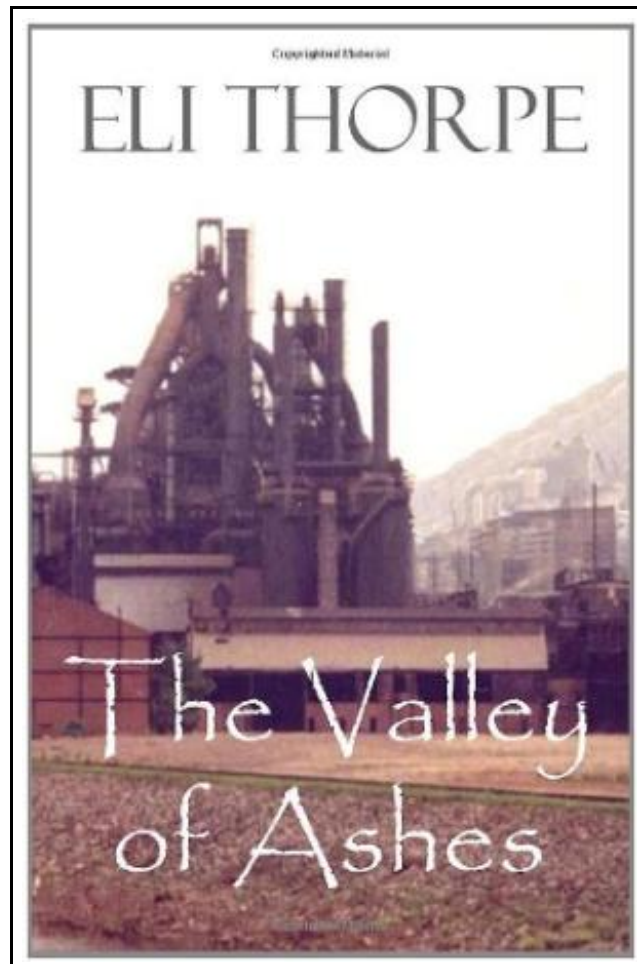


## The Valley of Ashes



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## THE VALLEY OF ASHES

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Outskirts Press, United States, 2010. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 216 x 140 mm. Language: English Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.A City of Dreams and Ashes The gritty gray dust that was more ash than anything else crunched under my shoes in the gutter as I walked along, hunched over against the cool bite in the breeze that penetrated despite the warmth of the sun. The breeze was clean, coming out of the northwest instead of the south, so it carried no new ash, no new grit, from the steel mills across the river. So begins the story of two young men trying to find their way through the turbulence of the 1970s -- not the nostalgic 1970s of popular culture, but the 1970s of drugs, violence, economic crisis, dying industry and lost dreams. They were members of an age group sometimes called The Blank Generation, lost between the Boomers and the Genexers. These are not the people of discos, gold chains and polyester leisure suits, the Boomers who were shaped by the Vietnam War. These are the people on the edges, shaped and disillusioned by Watergate, Ford and Carter. Set against the backdrop of a city built on steel, the novel follows Mike Shaunessey and his relationship with the unorthodox Dave Freeman on and off from 1973 through 1979. As the novel opens, the world holds no concerns for the teenage characters and their friends. They generally see their lives as secure, knowing that they will move ahead either into college or the steel mills. Partying is all that concerns them. But as they graduate into a city of disappearing jobs in the mid-70s, the partying becomes more desperate. Violence emerges from the world of sex, and drugs. The steel industry that has supported the city for...

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