

# *Alan Sillitoe*

---

TWO books of poetry published by Hutchinson have impressed me this year. Elaine Feinstein's **Badlands** (£5.95) links intensities of emotion from contemporary San Diego to legendary Carthage, and **Ask the Bloody Horse** by Danny Abse (£3.95) could only have been written by a doctor of the soul. Elias the great detective slouches upon the scene in **Ballad of Dogs' Beach** by José Cardoso Pires (Dent Paperback £4.50), an excellent novel translated from the Portuguese. Martin Gilbert's **Scharansky** (Macmillan £14.95) epitomises the plight of Jews trying to get out of Russia. Courage, hardship and hope are written into every line.