



Bitter Wormwood

By Easterine Kire

Zubaan Books, New Delhi, 2011. Soft cover. Book Condition: New. Kohima, 2007. A young man has been gunned down in cold blood the latest casualty in the conflict that has scarred the landscape and brutalised the people of Nagaland. Easterine Kire's new novel traces the story of one man's life, from 1937 to the present day. The small incidents of Mose's childhood, his family, the routines and rituals of traditional village life paint an evocative picture of a peaceful way of life, now long-vanished. The coming of a radio into Moses family's house marks the beginning of the changes that would connect them to the wider world. They learn of partition, independence, a land called America. Growing up, Mose and his friends become involved in the Naga struggle for Independence, and they are caught in a maelstrom of violence protest and repression, attacks and reprisals that ends up ripping communities apart. The herb, bitter wormwood, was traditionally believed to keep bad spirits away. For the Nagas, facing violent struggle all around, it becomes a powerful talisman: We sure could do with some of that old magic now. Bitter Wormwood gives a poignant insight into the human cost behind the political...



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