



Freed from Disgrace: Kalankmukti

By Phanishwar Nath Renu; Translated from Hindi By Satti Khanna

Oxford University Press, New Delhi, India, 2006. Hard Cover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First Edition. Not since Premchand has any writer in Hindi penetrated the experience of the rural poor with as much empathy as has Phanishwar Nath Renu. In his writing, he juxtaposes the roles of different members of a small-town community to create the effect of a many-layered life, moving from one story to another, creating a vibrant and complex narrative. Freed from Disgrace, his third novel, is set not in the countryside but in the capital city of Patna. The world of the novel is one of harsh contrary energies in the lives of women. Bela, a former freedom fighter, administers a hostel for working women in the district of Bankipur. Betrayals and disappointment in love have deepened her selflessness, and she refuses to yield to a corrupt secretary of the board of trustees who wants to use the young boarders for her personal advancement in influencing government officials. In the countryside of Renus novels, the dynamism of young pioneers wins out. In the city, the outcome is uncertain. Government officials in the new India have inherited privileges without undergoing education of spirit. Their...



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