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Basti

By Intizar Husain, Frances W. Pritchett

The New York Review of Books, Inc. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Basti, Intizar Husain, Frances W. Pritchett, "Intizar Husain is one of Pakistan's-and South Asia's-greatest living writers. Basti, a haunting modernist echo chamber of voices from Hindu, Buddhist, and Islamic traditions, unflinchingly depicts contemporary political violence in prose that is suffused with a deep nostalgia for a much less tormented age. Basti is a transformative vision of both present and past." -Pankaj Mishra Basti is a beautifully written reckoning with the tragic history of Pakistan. Basti means settlement, a common place, and Intizar Husain's extraordinary novel begins with a mythic, even mystic, vision of harmony between old and young, man and woman, Muslim and Hindu. Then Zakir, the hero, wakes to the modern world. Crowds gather. Slogans echo. Cities burn. Whether hunkered down with family or furtively meeting to exchange news with friends in cafes, Zakir is alone in a country lost to the politics of loneliness. "Intizar Husain is the most important writer of fiction in Urdu, the strangely homeless language produced out of interactions between the vernacular of north India and those of the Islamic Near East, Persian and Arabic in particular. In Basti he...



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