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Goa: Paradise-on-Sea

By Annabel Lopez

Roli Books, New Delhi, India, 2004. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First Edition. If you were to drop a bomb on Goa, it would land either on a cross or on a tavern - so goes the saying. Goa: Paradise on Sea faithfully represents it. The book is strongly marked by the Goan passion for life, which is on song the whole of 365 days. The ubiquitous singing, the famed beaches, the inevitable tot of wicked feni, the typical Goan-Portuguese cuisine do not leave space for much seriousness. Goa talks of the small state, liberated from 450 years of colonial rule in 1947, which is also heir to a unique inter-religious culture. Christian altars are decorated with Hindu motifs; Hindus, Christians and Muslims celebrate Carnival and Shimogi (the Goan festival of lights). Half the female population prefers the sari; others are comfortable in trousers and Western dresses. All, however, bow to the sweet spirit of St. Francis Xavier, the patron saint of Goa. Religious edifices unerringly index the glorious heights to which architecture aspires in Goa. Well-appointed homes and elegant mannerisms attest to its peoples warmth. Goa imbibes everything of the Goan spirit and is a heady...



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