



The Scar

By K.A. Gunasekaran

Orient BlackSwan, New Delhi, India, 2009. Paperback. Book Condition: New. First Edition. Growing up as a boy from the Parayar caste, in the milieu of Christian, Hindu and Muslim communities, K.A. Gunasekaran narrates the familiar tale of caste oppression and prejudice prevalent in the villages of Tamil Nadu. As the narrative unfolds, the reader is shown how the low caste negotiates differently with the three religious communities. The deep pain of the Paraya surfaces through the risible anecdotes that ridicule the grievously unjust practices of the upper castes. The book emphasises the fact that Indian villages are doubly caste-conscious and cruel, and that Dalit emancipation rests in better education for the community. Gunasekaran writes in an earthy and colloquial style to capture the innocence, cruelty and drama of a South Indian village. Considered the first modern Dalit autobiography in Tamil, The Scar is an important book calling for Dalit assertion and emancipation. Printed Pages: 120.



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