



A Life Misspent

By Suryakant Tripathi Nirala

Harpercollins India Publishers Ltd./Prakash Books, New Delhi, India. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. The tone of the book is comic. It would be good if people did not take offence at it and thereby reveal their inadequacy as readers.' -Nirala Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala', the first modern Hindi poet of India, is all of sixteen and not conversant with the Khari Boli Hindi of the litterateurs yet, when his father gets him married and sends him off to his in-laws' in Dalmau, UP to fetch his bride. There he meets a strange man called Kulli Bhaat who claims descent from a family of bards and, despite his mother-in-laws' reservations about Kulli being not quite straight, Nirala finds himself spending most of his time with Kulli. Then an influenza epidemic breaks out, claiming numerous lives, and Nirala's bereavement leaves him without mooring. Adrift on the boat of time, he seeks employment in various places but finds himself unable to stay away from Dalmau for long. Kulli, in the meanwhile, has taken a Muslim wife and become a champion of the untouchables. Set in pre-Independence India, A Life Misspent is as much the account of an unlikely friendship as it is a coming-of-age story....



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