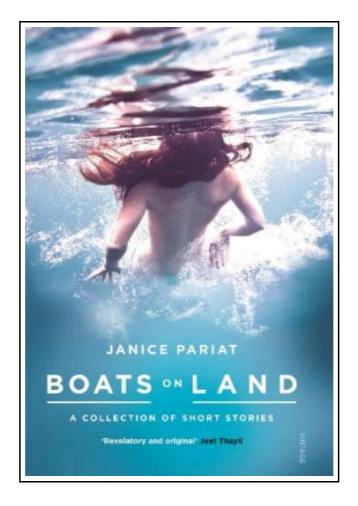
Boats on Land: A Collection of Short Stories



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Reviews

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(Bernardo Feeney Jr.)

BOATS ON LAND: A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES



Random House India, 2012. Softcover. Book Condition: New. These are tales about India?s Northeast. These stories weave a magical web of fascinating myths and legends, and quaint beliefs, all blending with contemporary reality in each story. The stories cover a big timespan, from the 1800s to the current times. India? s Northeast is not much explored in mainstream Indian English literature. Boats On Land: A Collection Of Short Stories is one of the few books that fills that gap. The writer is from Shillong and belongs to the Khasi community. The Khasis have a wonderful tradition of storytelling, and the author has grown up hearing many stories. She has used these legends and folklore as a base or background, lending a magical quality to the tales. There are 15 stories in this collection, and they deal with a wide variety of themes and times. The stories are about dreams, loss, yearnings, and teenage angst. All these themes blend with folklore and fairy tales, myths and legends and still paint a compelling portrait of the changing social and political landscape. The ancient Khasi traditions, the changes brought on by the Europeans and the missionaries, the impact of the British rule, and the unrest between the Khasis and the outsiders all form a backdrop to the stories. One of the stories, Laitlum, is about two girls who live in a protective environment, who are longing to break out. One of them has become a bit of a rebel. In Echo Words, the mysterious disappearance of a couple sparks rumors and wild speculations. They escalate and people start digging up the marshy land to find the bodies, believing the couple have been victims of foul play. Boats On Land: A Collection Of Short Stories conveys a deep empathy with the people and the land...



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