



## The Musk & Other Stories

By Arupa Patangia Kalita

Niyogi Books, New Delhi, 2017. Soft cover. Condition: New. 268pp. The Musk and Other Stories, an eclectic mix of short stories and a novella by acclaimed Assamese writer Arupa Patangia Kalita, sheds light on some of the burning issues that reverberate through the Assam Valley. Set against the breathtaking scenery of Assam with its lush green fields, meandering rivers and mighty mountains, the book pushes one to reflect upon the current political situation of Assam. While going to light an earthen lamp in Mineswar's paddy field for Kati Bihu, the royal princess stood still. The field leaned against the hill, the paddy stalks swayed with their heads bent heavy with the milky-white liquid which hardened into grains of rice when mature. Everything had taken on a golden hue in the setting rays of the sun. All of a sudden, darkness descended on the field, as if the hill had hastily grabbed the sun and hidden it in its lap. In the darkening sky, a flock of herons were flying towards the hills. Were they going looking for the sun? This was the prince's magical kingdom.

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