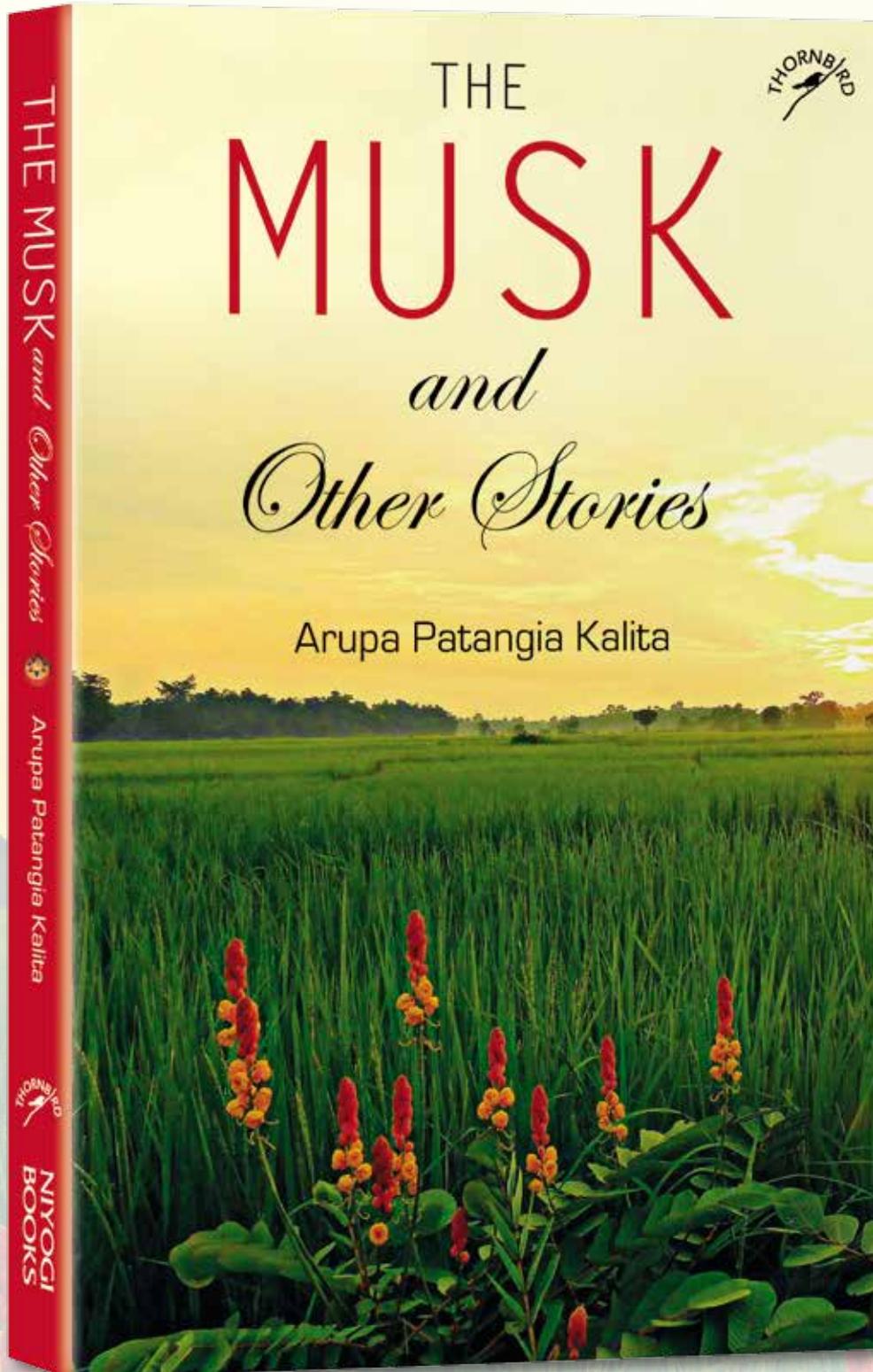


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THE
MUSK
and
Other Stories
by
Arupa Patangia Kalita

FICTION

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'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 ...'

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.



Arupa Patangia Kalita is one of the most accomplished and refined writers of Assam. She has to her credit over 19 publications (some of which have been adapted as films and tele-films). She has been conferred a number of awards for her contribution to the realm of Assamese literature—the *Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad Literary Award* (1995), the *Katha Award* (1998), the *Sahitya Akademi Award* (2014) and the *Assam Valley Literary Award* (2017). A number of short stories written by Arupa Patangia Kalita have been translated into English, Bengali and Hindi. Her works are used extensively for research by MPhil and PhD students.

The readers who do not have access to Assamese will get a taste of the author's short stories and novels.

A positive aspect of this collection is its comprehensiveness.

The stories in this volume show the aspects of the society around the author.

Against the background, agitation, extreme movement and parallel reign of terror; the stories come out with profound feeling for the suffering of the poor, the weak and the homeless.