



Delightful, yet powerful stories -- evocative of full-length novels and lives. As one of the most influential writers of the Eastern Himalaya, Indra Bahadur Rai writes resolutely in Nepali, binding his subjects and readers in a web of earthy empathy. Thanks to this book, the wider world can now appreciate his stories, about lives broken and forged by migration and pulls of the hearth

- Kanak Dixit, editor of *Himal*

IB Rai is arguably the most innovative and revered figure of modern Nepali literature. With the translations in this collection, his startlingly insightful stories at last become available to the English reader. Whether focusing on small private whimsies, on the tribulations of family and community life, or on key historical events such as the Nepali exodus from Burma, the stories here accrue detail after telling detail, drawing out the universal dilemmas of the human condition while also offering a piercing, clear view on Nepali experience and identity in particular. The essays in this collection testify to Rai's enduring influence on contemporary thought and culture. The publisher, editors and translators have performed an important service by bringing his oeuvre to English.

- Manjushree Thapa, author of *Forget Kathmandu*

