

# Palu



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Some novels excite us by offering a penetrating vision of our everyday life. Others, more rare, caativate us in the opposite way--they take us to new worlds and open our eyes to ways of life we have scarcely conceived of.

Palu is one of these books.

It is the story of a woman whose life is touched with a dark magic. Palu is born

into a remote hill tribe on a large Pacific island. She is just a child when, breaking the tribal taboo, she enters the sairit hut and meets the alligator demon. But the consequences of her act, violent and tragic, will follow her always. Her affair with Emo, a brilliant youth born to lead his people, brings her to Australia, and then back to her homeland as it struggles for national independence. But when Emo--frustrated by the struggle to bring Western democracy to his tribal culture--begins to change from leader to despot, the legends that cling to Palu make her his enemy. She is fated to meet the demons again. This is a remarkable novel, strange and intoxicating, that captures, as no journalistic effort could, the feeling of a land where modern politics confronts ancient gods.

作者介绍:

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