

Death of a Hero



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? Epitaph for Maqbool Sherwani is the harrowing true story of a poet who was crucified by wild Pathan terrorists sent to capture Kashmir a few days after the Maharaja's accession to free India in 1947. Rising above the dangers of his return of his hometown, Baramula, on the behest of Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah and his patriotic council, who had preferred liberty in secular India rather than join Pak theocracy, Maqbool Sherwani goes through terror, unleashed by mercenary guerillas, to face nightmare of loot and killing of the invaders. Betrayed by the greedy little men who have succumbed to lure of money and power, he is caught after a chase, to face his tormentors. He is shot after a mock trial and leaves behind a tender letter to his sister about his belief of future- of the struggle for hope against despair. This short novel has been called by an eminent critic as one of Mulk Raj Anand's highest achievements.