

JAN MICHALSKI PRIZE FOR LITERATURE

Edition 2013

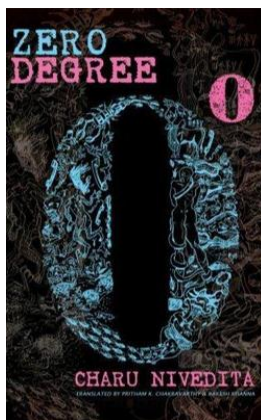
Charu Nivedita

Zero Degree

Zero Degree is remarkable for its experimental voice, and its varying and shifting tonalities. Opening up the infinitely complex Indian experience for literary dissection is always a big challenge. Charu Nivedita in this pathbreaking Tamil novel does it with radical élan, playing with both form and content. There are chapters without punctuation, there are chapters in the first person, and then some in the third person, there is the relentless pastiche of the west and the east, the contemporary and the ancient, the sacred and the scatological - and through it all there a continually sardonic examination of the oppressions of sex and class and gender and language.

The final triumph of *Zero Degree* is that despite all the breathless experimentation, all the word play, and the shifting canvas, it remains continually engaging, compelling you to turn the page to taste what new insights and delights Nivedita has lined up with his coruscating wit and style.

Tarun J. Tejpal
Member of the jury



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