



GENDER NARRATIVES

**Reinterpreting Language,
Culture and Tradition
in Nagaland**

Editors
**Bendangsenla
Lanurenla
I. Yashikala Jamir
Maongienla
Imwapangla Imsong**

With a Foreword by
Dolly Kikon

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**The Two Sides of a Coin: A Critique of
the *Auxiliary* Power of the Matriarch in
Patriarchy as Seen in Easterine Kire's *A
Terrible Matriarchy***

ADENUO SHIRAT LUIKHAM

Easterine (Iralu) Kire¹ is an eminent writer and leading voice in the Naga literary world having authored several collections of poems, novels and children's books. She has won prestigious national awards recognising her excellence in literature. Her novel *A Naga Village Remembered* (2003) is considered a literary landmark having the distinction of being the first English novel published in the state. Her works have also been translated into several foreign languages.

A Terrible Matriarchy (2007) is the story of a girl, Dielieno (literally translates as 'errand girl'), the youngest in a family of five children with four brothers. She is determined to get

¹ I have chosen to use the maiden name of the author 'Kire' in my discussion even though the 2007 edition of the novel used for this paper has 'Easterine Iralu' as the published name of the author. The author has since reverted to using her maiden name in later publications.

"This book, a collaboration of solidarity and power, invites us to foster care and gender accountability. Grounded in collective wisdom and the reflections of our ancestors, poets, writers, and seminarians, there is a transformative fire waiting to be ignited. There is work to be done. And the first step is to read this book and contemplate on the possibilities of a just equal future together."

Dolly Kikon

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University of Melbourne.*

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