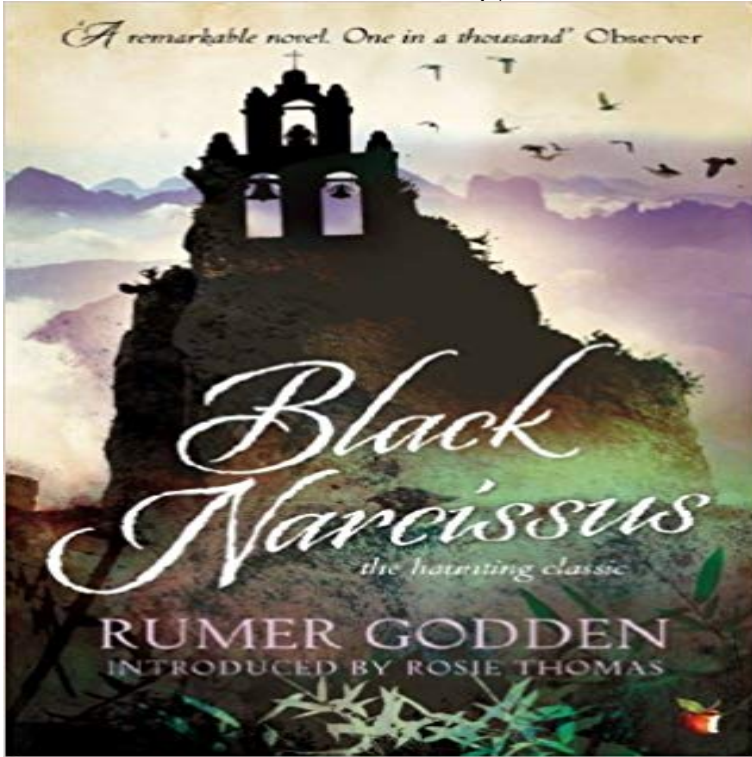


Black Narcissus: A Virago Modern Classic (VMC Book 155)



High in the Himalayas near Darjeeling, the old mountaintop palace shines like a jewel. When it was the Generals harem palace, richly dressed ladies wandered the windswept terraces; at night, music floated out over the villages and gorges. Now, the Generals son has bestowed it on an order of nuns, the Sisters of Mary. Well-intentioned yet misguided, the nuns set about taming the gardens and opening a school and dispensary for the villagers. They are dependent on the local English agent of Empire, Mr Dean; but his charm and insolent candour are disconcerting. And the implacable emptiness of the mountain, the ceaseless winds, exact a toll on the Sisters. When Mr Dean says bluntly, This is no place for a nunnery, it is as if he foresees their destiny...

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