



Love and Loss

D JAYAKANTHAN



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Unnaiyol Oruvan

Jayakanthan

Translated from Tamil by
Dr K S Subramanian



INDIAN
WRITING

D Jayakanthan, born in 1934, is among the most eminent and influential writers in Tamil. He has won acclaim as a combative and thought-provoking author, with over 10 novels, 30 novellas and 100 short stories as well as numerous essays to his credit. He has received many awards, among them the prestigious Jnanpith Award in 2002 and the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1972. He is also a Fellow of the Sahitya Akademi.

Jayakanthan's novel, *Love and Loss*, is a sensitive 'slice of life' story that explores the lives of Thangam, a construction worker and her son Chitti, born out of wedlock. The squalid slums of erstwhile Madras, now Chennai, form the grimy background to the tender drama of a woman trying to find an anchor to her life in a roadside astrologer she befriends, and the furious resentment and protest this engenders in her son.

Originally titled *Ummat Pol Oruvan* in Tamil, it portrays a milieu that was not often the stuff of fiction in the 1960s. It was made into an award-winning film.

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