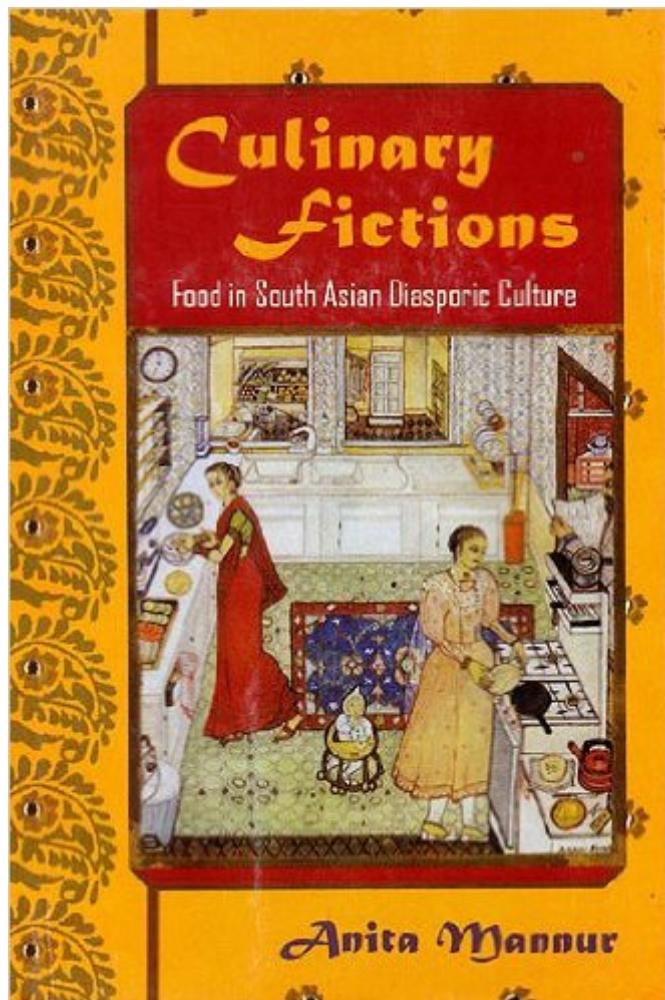


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Culinary Fictions: Food In South Asian Diasporic Culture



Synopsis

For South Asians, food regularly plays a role in how issues of race, class, gender, ethnicity, and national identity are imagined as well as how notions of belonging are affirmed or resisted. a "Culinary Fictions" aprovides food for thought as it considers the metaphors literature, film, and TV shows use to describe Indians abroad. When an immigrant mother in Jhumpa LahiriOCOsa "The Namesake" acombines Rice Krispies, Planters peanuts, onions, salt, lemon juice, and green chili peppers to create a dish similar to one found on Calcutta sidewalks, it evokes not only the characterOCOs Americanization, but also her nostalgia for India. Food, Anita Mannur writes, is a central part of the cultural imagination of diasporic populations, and a "Culinary Fictions" amaps how it figures in various expressive forms. Mannur examines the cultural production from the Anglo-American reaches of the South Asian diaspora. Using texts from novelsOCO Chitra DivakaruniOCOsa "Mistress of Spices" aand Shani MootooOCOsa "Cereus Blooms at Night" OCo and cookbooks such as Madhur JaffreyOCOsa "Invitation to Indian Cooking" aand Padma LakshmiOCOsa "Easy Exotic," she illustrates how national identities are consolidated in culinary terms." --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anita Mannur's book Culinary Fictions opens one's mind in exploring the representation of South Asian food and the discourse surrounding it in relation to South Asian communities all over the world. Deftly weaving in discussions of everything from episodes of Sex in the City and the film

Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle to Jhumpa Lahiri's novels and short stories and Padma Lakshmi's television appearances, Mannur's readings impress the reader with both their range and her ability to place familiar objects in fresh, new, and thought provoking contexts. While this is a book for academic readers, Mannur steers clear of jargon and invites the reader through beautifully rendered prose. Her discussions should be of interest to anybody interested in food, media studies, South Asian culture in the diaspora, Asian-American Studies and literature, and immigration.

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