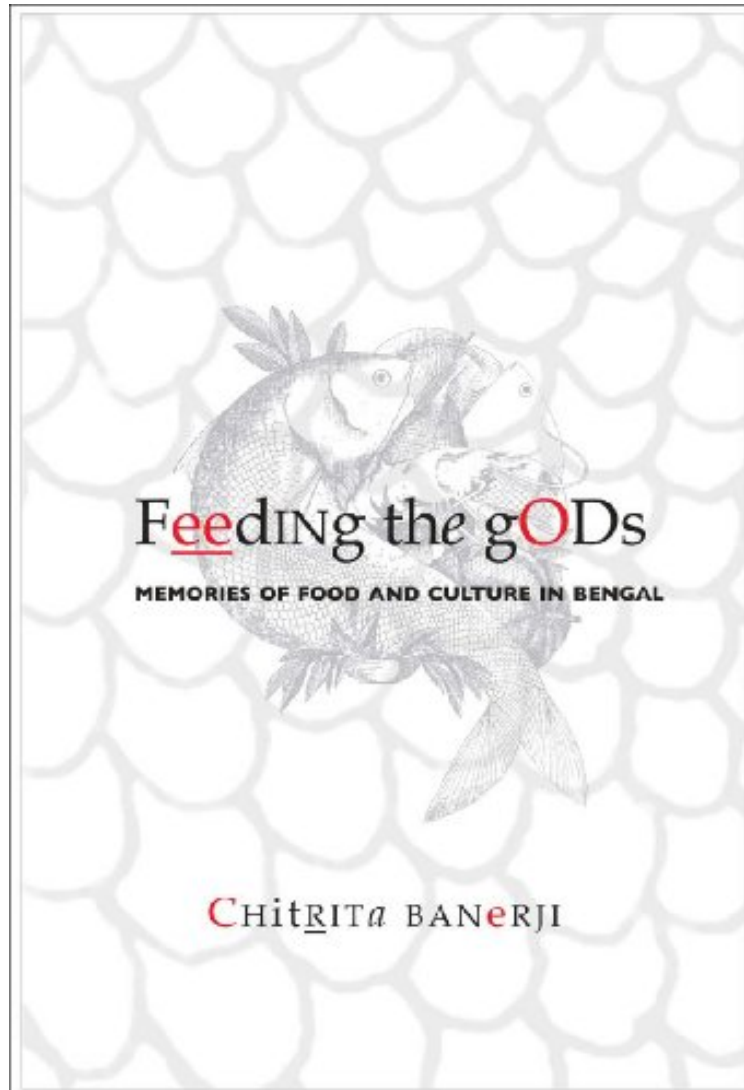


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Feeding the Gods: Memories of Food and Culture in Bengal

Chitrita Banerji

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Chitrita Banerji : Feeding the Gods: Memories of Food and Culture in Bengal before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Feeding the Gods: Memories of Food and Culture in Bengal:

As the pungent fragrance of spices transports the author back into memories of childhood, we too are plunged headlong into the rich tastes, textures and colours of food in her native Bengal. Here, food is a ritualised and intrinsic

part of the culture, particularly of the culture of womenacute;s lives. Beyond the meals prepared and cooked for everyday life, food offerings blessed by the gods are shared by devotees in daily ceremonies of worship, special dishes are cooked on auspicious days, and ritual ways of preparing foods are carefully mastered. Feeding the Gods paints an extraordinary picture of food and ritual in Bengal. These complex rituals reveal not only an astonishingly rich culinary culture but also a social structure in which certain foods are forbidden. Combining social critique with the intimacy of memoir, Banerji writes of growing up from girlhood to womanhood in Bengal, a land where food and ritual are intimate experiences which shape day-to-day life.

"Chitrita Banerji has written a charming and very personal reflection on her life and the spiritual part that food has played in it. ... Her writing is poetic and her words evoke rituals, colour and tastes of Bengal." [Mostlyfood.co.uk](#) About the Author Chitrita Banerji is author of *Life and Food in Bengal* (London, 1991; Delhi 2005), and *Bengali Cooking: Seasons and Festivals* (London, 1997), as well as of numerous articles in *The Boston Globe*, *Granta* (London), *Gastronomica* (Berkeley), *The Phoenix* (Boston), *Boston Magazine*, *Calyx* (Corvallis, Oreg.), and *Petits Propos Culinaires* (London). She has presented papers and received awards at the prestigious Oxford Food Symposium.