



## The Top of the Raintree

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By Kamalini Sengupta

IndiaInk/Roli Books, New Delhi, India. Softcover. Book Condition: New. In *The Top of the Raintree*, Kamalini Sengupta deftly explores Calcutta in its heyday. Intricate personal, social, political and religious ironies are reflected through the surreal, the mundane and the real, The Rajmahal, a magnificent turn-of-the-century Calcutta mansion on Chowringhee, is imbued with a life of its own, its spaces inhabited by pigeons, ghosts and a diversity of tenants. Surjeet Shona, a complex hybrid, gets involved with the tenants, and their problems - a British couple adjusting to the new India, a Russian patron of Bengali theatre overwhelmed by the Great Bengal famine, an Anglo-Indian widow fighting alcoholism, an ageing Bengali fobbing off a younger brother desirous of his inheritance and an elegant Muslim family caught in the post-Partition Hindu-Muslim dichotomy. Brick by brick, the mansion grows old; chapter by chapter, stereotypes tumble. Printed Pages: 293.



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