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River Of Colour The India Of Raghubir Singh

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Synopsis

First published in 1998 to mark the occasion of an exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago, this book is arranged into eleven thematic sections. The images capture the sights and smells of street life, monuments, and pilgrims, creating a picture of daily life in India.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ragubir Singh’s India is poignant, stark, vital and alive. His photographs of everyday life in India are glimpses into the soul of all strata of Indian life. Whether seeing a mother and child, two little girls who are best friends, or the incredible paradox a rich man and his luxury car juxtaposed to the glaring, overwhelming poverty and human suffering, one can’t help but be deeply moved and touched by the vibrant movement flowing through each and every image in this visual journey to the real India.

I’ve recently been to this wonderful country called India and this book brought all the memories back again: the bright colours, the light, the buzzing and chaos of the cities, the amazing eyes of the Indian people, even the smells of the country... I was deeply moved by Singh’s photographs and his talent to capture these unforgettable moments. Now I only have one desire: to go back to India!!

This is one of my favorite compilations of Singh’s work. I also have his books on Tamil Nadu and
Kerala as well as "A Way into India." I will note that this book does contain many photos from these other works, and, I presume, from the Bombay, Rajasthan, Calcutta, and Kashmir books. It is well-edited and contains many of his most beautiful photos, but there are very few that I haven't seen elsewhere. If you are looking for a review of Singh's very best work in documentary photos of India, this is it. If you own a number of his other books it may be somewhat a review.

India is a difficult country to understand and even more difficult to explain, in words or pictures! Rughubir Singh has captured the chaos of India which take you right into the bylanes of Varanasi/Banaras. This is my favourite (in fact the only picture book) gift to a lot of my western friends, most of whom have visited India before. The pictures are simply too powerful. If you have any fascination for that land, you can't afford not to have a look at Mr. Singh's pictures.

If you have ever been to India, or have ever wished in your mind's eye to go there, this is the book for you. Singh's legacy is to offer captivating images. Even my five year old daughter will sit and look at each image for the longest time, and think of what is seen -- just like a visit to India itself!

I spent six months traveling to all corners of India about fifteen years ago, and this brings the experience back like almost nothing else except maybe visits to Hindu temples. The reproduction quality is amazing, like museum quality prints, so hats off to Phaidon for making that happen.

I think the author has been eclipsed and photography has simply moved on. I expected so much more from it after reading the glowing reviews. After a week of still not liking the book I finally returned it to and rarely return anything.

Purchased for my father who has a strong interest in the people of India. He loved it. This book focuses on the people rather than the places.

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