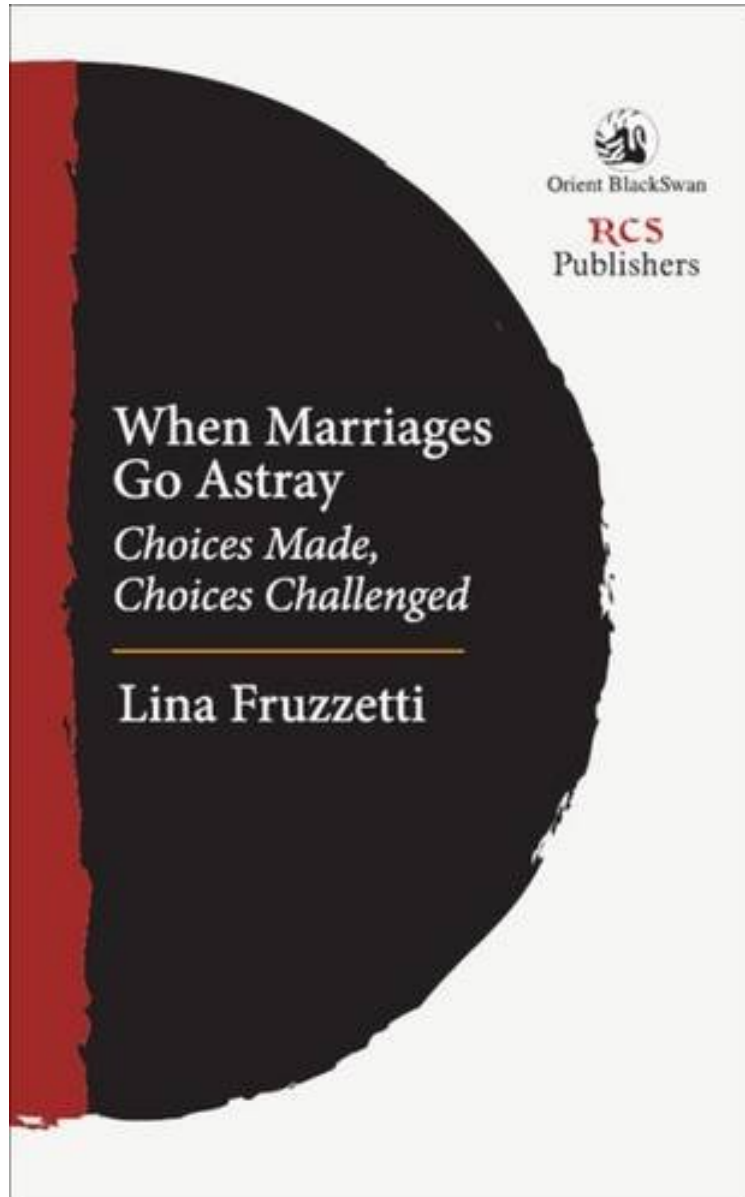


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When Marriages Go Astray: Choices Made, Choices Challenged

Lina Fruzzetti

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Lina Fruzzetti : When Marriages Go Astray: Choices Made, Choices Challenged before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When Marriages Go Astray: Choices Made, Choices Challenged:

When Marriages Go Astray: Choices Made, Choices Challenged is an account of inter-caste and inter-religious marriages and presents detailed case studies from Bishnupur, a town in West Bengal. In this study Lina Fruzzetti looks into a rarely studied aspect of female agency in India: how can we understand society's concern with marriages deemed to have gone astray? How do women cope with their families rejection of their choices? This work addresses women's dilemma in selecting one's marriage partner in a society still bound by the tradition of arranging marriages for their children. Fruzzetti analyzes the discourse of how these young women set about negotiating new boundaries by denying their imposed ideal as custodians and preservers of tradition. Instead of acquiescing to rules and cultural obligations, they decide to navigate the confines of culture and their decision often sets them against kinship, family, or even one's faith, notably in cases requiring conversion to a new religion. These women realize that in asserting their freedom to choose they face conflict with the expectations of their upbringing and pose challenges of acceptability to their families, society, caste, and occasionally religious communities.