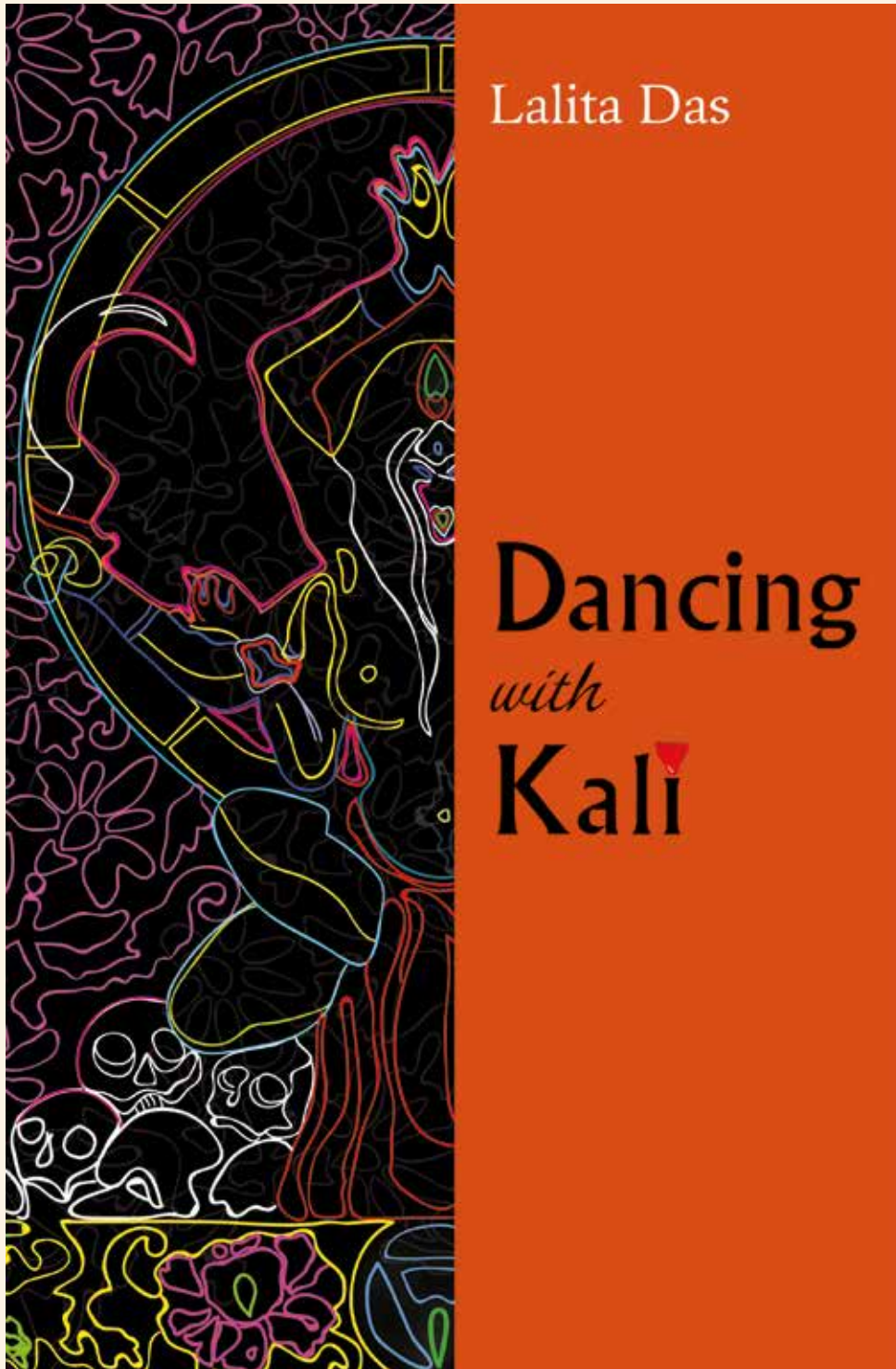


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Author: Lalita Das

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While roaming the beaches of Goa with a band of hippies, Alec, an up-and-coming English lawyer, meets Anu, the daughter of a prominent Hindu landowner. Their marriage sets in motion a chain of events that culminates eighteen years later when Ronnie comes to Goa to visit the beach where his mother was lost to the sea. He meets Meera, a young girl—whose mother is also dead—living with her grandparents, all three of whom are being ostracised by the community.

An intricately woven saga of love, revenge and retribution, and dark family secrets, the book resonates with the ethos of karma; the eternally intertwined dance of destruction and creation—the dance of Kali, who wipes out the karma and fulfils the desires of her devotees. Weaving in Hindu and Christian philosophies, Goan and hippie cultures, the modalities of Western urban gentry and the Indian rural structure, the lucid narrative skilfully juxtaposes human emotions—tribulations with failures; empathy with apathy; vengeance with resurrection—celebrating the poise and strength of womanhood.



About the Author:

Lalita Das's projects and numerous articles on diverse subjects—interdependence of architecture and social systems, architecture designed by women, life of the adivasis—have been published in Indian and international publications. She has presented papers on town planning in ancient India and on position of women in Hinduism at various international conferences held in London, Manchester, Cardiff, Toronto and Colombo.

She now lives in Mumbai and is a practicing architect.

This eradication of freedom to make mistakes, of any initiative, of her confidence in herself—all had been so gradual and subtle and done with so much love that it had been impossible to know or check. Anu had not even realised when and how she had got indoctrinated into the system, when or how she had accepted the fact that she needed to be protected from making her own mistakes, that to get anything she wanted she too had to depend upon the largesse of a man. But she had. To the extent that had sealed her fate. She had no faith left in her own ability to attain her goals.