Contents

	Preface	i>
	Between the lines: in introduction	x
1	Politics of the possible: or the perils of reclassification	1
2	Of ladies, gentlemen, and the "short-cut": or choosing unfreedom	29
3	"Not knowing, but only guessing": a modernist resolution	56
4	Figures for the 'unconscious': the pressures on description	74
5	Relating histories	96
	A dialectic of reform and preservation: Sanskrit and Hindu women	98
	Literature, female literacy, colonial English: an interface	124
	The gender of ignorance and altruism: English women and empire	163
5	Women against women	184
	Mirroring trajectories: the fortunes of English, the logics of class	188
	Diverse faiths, shared customs, composite beliefs	231
	The prism of caste: Chhabili Bhatiyari	247

7	The 'amenities of domestic life'	279
	'On our work there is no blessing': questions on labour	282
	The servitude of love and the science of denial	305
	The promise and retreat of conjugality: widows and prostitutes	350
8	Consent, agency, and rhetorics of incitement	364
	In indirect ways	366
	Boons, entitlements, obligations: Kaikeyi and Manthara	384
	Under institutional sanction: the discourse of violence	397
	Notes	410
	Index	490