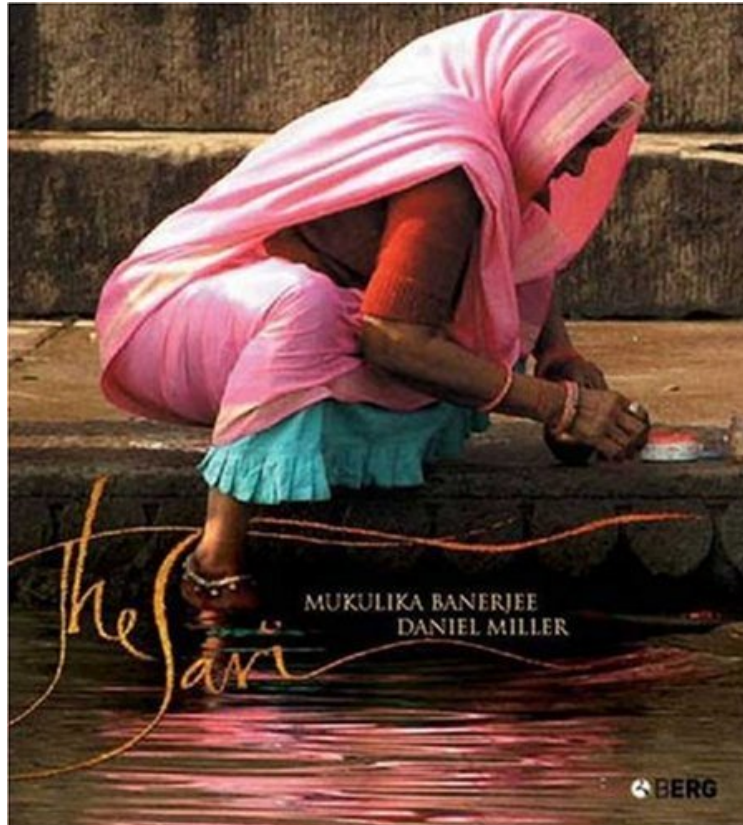


## The Sari

*Mukulika Banerjee, Daniel Miller*  
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#726355 in Books Bloomsbury Academic 2008-08-15 2008-09-16 Original language: English PDF # 1 .44 x .2 x 8.00l, 1.85 #File Name: 1847883141320 pages | File size: 40.Mb

**Mukulika Banerjee, Daniel Miller : The Sari** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sari:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful textiles represented in muddled, unclear black and white photography. By Boardgamer, PHDSome surprising misinformation in this volume (e.g., author stated hijras are hermaphrodites. Hello????!!! Hijras are not hermaphrodites!) but its greatest letdown is the black and white photography that is often dull and muddled. Saris are amazingly beautiful garments with fantastic textiles and I was expecting beautiful color illustrations...nope. I had high hopes for this book but was disappointed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Customerokay0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Makes A Beautiful Gift By CustomerThe book itself is a large coffee table size with beautiful photographs depicting the Sari (the Indian Women's dress). As for the content, I think the authors did a great job bringing to life the sari (approximately six yards of material) it's meaning traditionally, socially, and economically. They explain through research and stories from woman of all backgrounds the how and why of choosing the fabric, color and how to wear the sari for different occasions and what it means to the them. I bought this book for a friend interested in the Indian Culture and the Sari. I gave it five stars because my friend loved the content of the book and I was thrilled with the gift quality of the hardcover edition. \*As a sidenote, I don't think the softcover edition would have the same impact as the

hardcover edition.

Drawing on experiences from villagers in Bengal to scientists in Bangalore, this book explores the beauty, adaptability and personality of India's most iconic garment. Banerjee and Miller show why the sari has survived and indeed flourished as everyday dress when most of the world has adopted western clothing. Their book presents both an intimate portrait of the lives of women in India today and an alternative way for us all to think about our relationship to the clothes we wear. A new bride is unable to move from her husband's motorbike as her sari comes undone. A young man wonders how he will cope with the saris complicated folds in a romantic clinch. A villager's soft, worn sari is her main comfort during a fever. Throughout the book, these and other remarkable stories place the sari at the heart of relationships between mothers and infants, mistresses and maids, designers and soap opera stars. Illustrated and rich in personal testimony, *The Sari* expertly shows how one of the world's most simply constructed garments can reveal the intricate design of life in modern India.

From Publishers Weekly Banerjee and Miller, a lecturer and a professor, respectively, in the anthropology department at University College London, examine five meters of fabric in their intricate study. Their academic background is only bothersome in the unnecessary and distracting footnotes, whose information could have easily been incorporated into the text. Otherwise, it's an enthralling celebration, exploration and analysis-through women's voices-of India's most symbolic garment. The authors quickly explain that their book isn't a primer on colors, types, draping and tying; rather, it uses interviews and research to explore the relationship between women and their saris. It covers the traditions and politics of acquisition, whether by a girl, a bride-to-be or a maid receiving a hand-me-down from her mistress; of learning to wear it; of storage and cleaning; and of sexuality. These implications combine with ever-present practical considerations: "She must try to avoid the frequent injuries that arise from getting the sari caught in doors, machines, or worst of all, the stove. But to achieve social respectability, she must learn to move, drape, sit, fold, pleat and swirl the sari in an appropriate way." One chapter takes readers through an executive woman's morning sari decision making and how she creatively makes her selection with specific visual (and political) goals in mind. The women's stories enrich throughout, successfully and unforgettably bringing the sari alive. Banerjee and Miller have provided an intimate peek into the culture of Indian women, and their research shows that although the subject is specific to a particular culture, its concerns are universal to all women. Photos. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. A fascinating look at this great Indian traditional wear told through the voices of women who love and live with it on a daily basis G. Chadha, director of Bend It Like Beckham About the Author Mukulika Banerjee is Reader in Social Anthropology, University College London and author of *The Parthian Unarmed*. Daniel Miller is Professor of Anthropology, University College London. Recent books include *A Theory of Shopping*, *The Internet: An Ethnographic Approach* (with Don Slater) and *Ed. Car Cultures*.