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Editors: [Hodgson, Dorothy L.](#)   
[McCurdy, Sheryl A.](#)

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Abstract: This collection of essays examines the ways African women pushed the boundaries, individually or collectively, of 'acceptable' behaviour to produce changes in the gendered dynamics of power and a reconfiguration of broader moral and social orders. Each section of the book examines a distinct domain or strategy of 'wickedness'. Contesting conjugality (chapters on marriage and divorce in Abeokuta, Nigeria, 1892-1904; marriage and gender identity in colonial Buha, Tanzania, 1943-1960; contest and change in gender relations in Ado-Odo, Nigeria; and marital metaphors and conjugal contracts in The Gambia's garden sector), Confronting authority (chapters on dancing women ('Nwaobiala') and colonial men in Okigwe, Nigeria, 1925; gender chaos and unmarried women in colonial Asante, Ghana; and marriage, Maasai and the Tanzanian State), Taking spaces/making spaces (chapters on the cultural construction of 'bad women' in the development of Kampala-Kibuga, Uganda, 1900-1962; Basotho women and the culture of mobility, South Africa; Manyema women, low fertility and venereal diseases in Tanganyika, 1926-1936; and the challenges of career pursuits for Igbo women in postcolonial Nigeria) and Negotiating difference (chapters on women's associations in Niger; gender on the Zambian Copperbelt, 1936-1964; and Ghana's market women as devoted mothers and 'human vampire bats'). Contributors: Jean Allman, Misty L. Bastian, Judith Byfield, Gracia Clark, Barbara M. Cooper, David B. Coplan, Andrea Cornwall, Dorothy L. Hodgson, Margot Lovett, Sheryl A. McCurdy, Nakanyike B. Musisi, Philomena E. Okeke, Jane L. Parpart, Richard A. Schroeder.

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