



QUESTION AND ANSWER WITH THE AUTHOR...

Is it a religious book, Ian?

Not at all, but it is about religion – particularly about the behaviour of missionaries in India during the Raj, the period when India was effectively a colony run by Britain's East India Company.

Can you explain what you mean about “the behaviour”?

Yes. Briefly, my view is that it is perfectly fine for missionaries to “do good” in foreign countries, but they should not apply pressure on those people they help to become Christian converts.

Christian missionaries obviously have their beliefs in their God and in Jesus Christ, so what is wrong with that?

I am not a believer myself, but I don't object to others having religious beliefs, so long as they are not extreme and don't hurt others. Missionaries should help but not interfere, in my view.

Is the book all or mostly about religion?

Definitely not. It is about trying to establish what happened to my Great Aunt Florence Cox, who was married to the Rev. Frank E. Paice, a Baptist missionary in East Bengal for six years.

Can you explain?

Purely by accident, I discovered that “Florrie”, as she was known to her family, had been caught up in a terrible scandal and I wanted to know the circumstances. My interest was intensified by the intensity of the secrecy surrounding the failure of her marriage to Frank Paice and his affair with another missionary, Miss A. Olga Johnston.

Does sex come into it?

Yes. Sex – and religious attitudes to sex – are a key part of the story, but not in a pornographic way.

How was what happened to Florrie Cox kept a secret?

Well, the Baptist Church and the Cox and Paice families in Australia were acutely embarrassed by the scandal and understandably they did their

best to see it did not become public. They were aided in this cover-up by the Freemasons, the Australian press and the judiciary.

The Freemasons and secrecy go together, but in what way did the judiciary get involved?

The Supreme Court of Victoria in Melbourne made sure that the scandal stayed secret by declaring the divorce file “closed for all time”.

Did you ever find out why that marriage of Florrie Cox and Frank Paice failed?

Yes, I did, but it took a long, often-frustrating battle with the Supreme Court to gain access to the divorce file.

And what did you discover?

Ah, I mustn't tell you that because it would spoil *God's Triangle* for those who haven't yet read the book.

Can you give a hint?

Only that what happened to Florrie was the result of a very rare situation, compounded by social ignorance and taboos that existed at that time – the early 1900s. It might not have happened in today's social climate.

It sounds as though *God's Triangle* is a kind of detective story.

Yes, that is an accurate description – a detective story that required an investigation lasting more than 10 years to establish the truth.

Click here for [readers' comments](#)

Where to buy the *God's Triangle* [paperback](#) and [Kindle](#) versions