

# BEATRICE

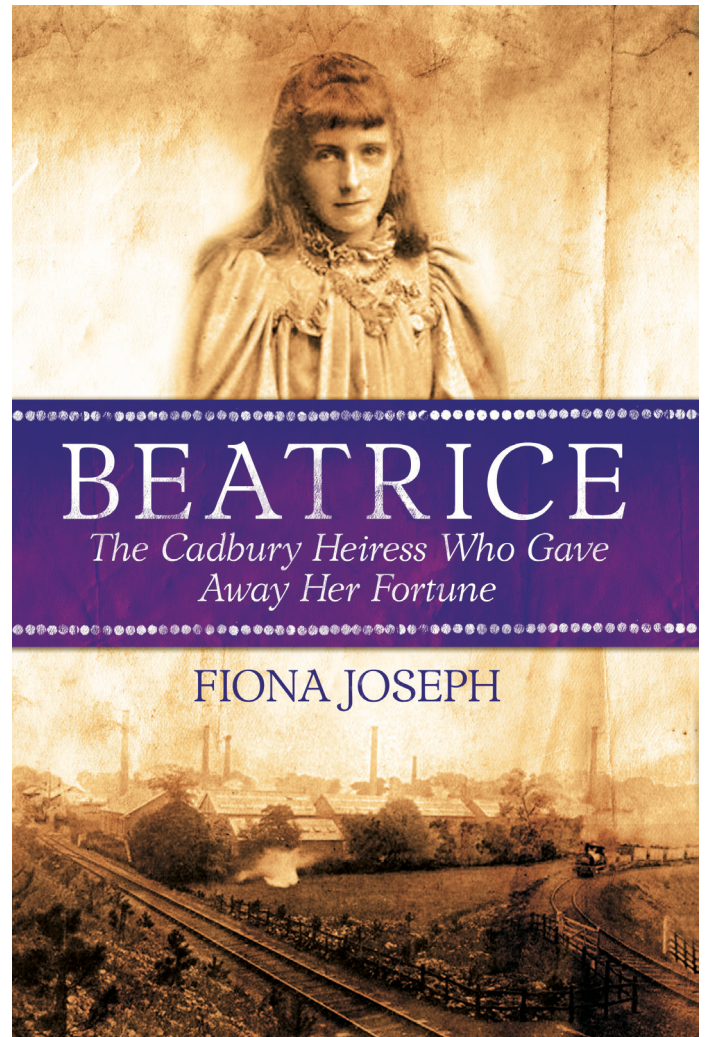
## The Cadbury Heiress Who Gave Away Her Fortune

Fiona Joseph

Beatrice Cadbury, daughter of the world-famous chocolate empire, grew up with all the privileges: a fine mansion with servants, a well-rounded education and the chance to travel the world and see all its glories. But being a 'have' in a world of 'have-nots' was troubling, and in 1920 she decided to 'give back' all the Cadbury shares she had inherited to the Bournville factory workers ... with unexpected consequences.

Join Beatrice on her astonishing journey from respectable Quaker girl to bold peace activist as she and her Dutch husband, Kees Boeke, relentlessly pursued their vision of a fairer and more equal society.

**An inspiring and thought-provoking book for our age.**



9780957093409 | Paperback | 254pp

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**Fiona Joseph** was born in Birmingham, UK. She is a former university lecturer and textbook writer, who now runs an educational publishing company as well as writing short stories, graded readers and narrative non-fiction.

Her biography *BEATRICE The Cadbury Heiress Who Gave Away Her Fortune* was longlisted in the International Rubery Book Award 2012 and picked as an ALLi Book of the Month.

Fiona is a graduate of Birmingham City University's Diploma in Writing, and was the winner of the National Academy of Writing Prize for Fiction in 2009. She is a regular speaker at libraries, literary festivals and clubs/societies.

Fiona lives with her husband, two children and their recently-adopted dog in South Birmingham, approximately six miles from the Bournville chocolate factory. Her favourite chocolate bar is Cadbury Dairy Milk.

# Questions for Discussion

## General questions

1 What new or surprising information did you learn from the book? For example, about the Cadbury family and their business? Quakerism? WW1 and WW2? Peace movements?

2 What events in the book did you find the most memorable?

3 In an interview about the writing of Beatrice Cadbury's biography, the author stated the following: "*Although I was writing the life story of a figure from the past, I constantly asked myself: 'Why does this story matter?' and 'What does it say about the world and the times we live in now?'*"

How far do any of the themes in the book relate to present-day events and preoccupations? Did you find any aspects of the story particularly timely?

4 The Werkplaats was once described as a 'nightmare' school. What do you think of its educational ethos? Would you have liked to attend a school like The Werkplaats or not?

5 What attitudes to money are prevalent in the book?

## About Beatrice

1 What were Beatrice's greatest strengths? What were her flaws?

2 Did your opinion of Beatrice change over the course of the book? How far were your sympathies towards Beatrice challenged? How do you think her family in Birmingham felt?

3 What impulses led Beatrice to a) give away her Cadbury shares and b) shelter Jewish children? Could you imagine acting in the same way?

4 Who, in your opinion, are the other heroes of the story?

5 Does Beatrice Cadbury deserve a place in history?

## How the Story is Told

1 How readable did you find the book?

2 How successful are some of the narrative/novelistic techniques used by the author to create suspense and dramatic tension?

3 Apart from the introductory prologue, the story is told chronologically. Did this structure enhance your enjoyment or would you have preferred an alternative structure? Was the Postscript useful or necessary?

4 Would the story make a good film or TV series? Who would play Beatrice and Kees?

## Extras

Search through Flickr and Pinterest for photographs (old and new) of Cadbury products. What is your favourite Cadbury bar or packaging?

Search for Bach's Ciaccona (also spelt Chaconne) on YouTube and listen to a variety of performances. Which version do you like best? What romantic piece of music would *you* choose to serenade a loved one?

Find the Wikipedia entry for Kees Boeke. How does some of the factual information on that page contradict what is in the book?

Use Googlemaps with Streetview to view some of the locations mentioned in the book.



## What next?

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