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Out in India

Australian-born, US-resident writer John Burbidge spent six years in India as a community development worker, a time that changed him forever, for it was in India that he was forced to acknowledge his homosexuality.

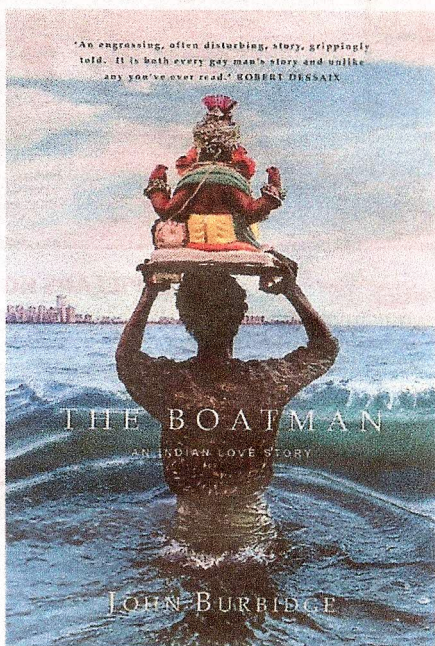
But it also meant leading a double life.

As he went on a journey of self-discovery, he also was living and working in a tight-knit, often homophobic community with a regimented schedule and little privacy.

A very frank account of Burbidge's sexual adventuring, *The Boatman An Indian Love Story* (Transit Lounge Publishing, \$29.95) is also a vividly drawn portrait of life in India, full of characters, incidents, anecdotes, adventures and misadventures.

It is also a chronicle of how in pre-AIDS India, Westerner "cross-class" cruising was rife.

That may not be for every reader, but in *The Hindustan Times*,



reviewer Ashok Row Kavi, himself a gay man, said of *The Boatman*: "Burbidge's book is immensely educative and should be compulsory reading on how a foreigner discovers his true nature (he thanks Ganesha for it) but returns home a very strong and confident man in charge of his life."

See transitlounge.com.au. **T**