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Vancouver is Ashes: The Great Fire of 1886 (Paperback)

By Lisa Anne Smith

Ronsdale Press, Canada, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 234 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Literary Nonfiction. History. On the morning of June 13, 1886, a rogue wind fanned the flames of a small clearing fire and within five hours, the newly incorporated city of Vancouver, British Columbia, had been reduced to smoldering ash. VANCOUVER IS ASHES: THE GREAT FIRE OF 1886 is the first detailed exploration of what happened on that pivotal, yet seldom revisited day in the history of Canada's third-largest city. Lisa Anne Smith tells the story with numerous archival photographs. She uses eye-witness accounts to describe flames sweeping down wooden sidewalks faster than a man could run, houses that were constructed of freshly milled lumber, which virtually exploded in the onslaught, as well as hair-breadth escapes of Vancouver citizens from all walks of life. She records how two businessmen lying face-down in a patch of gravel bid each other goodbye, while a young married couple cling to a makeshift raft, and a mother and her children cower in fear beneath a stable blanket in a shallow ditch. Strange, often unlikely stories emerge in the aftermath, such as the pile of ice discovered...



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