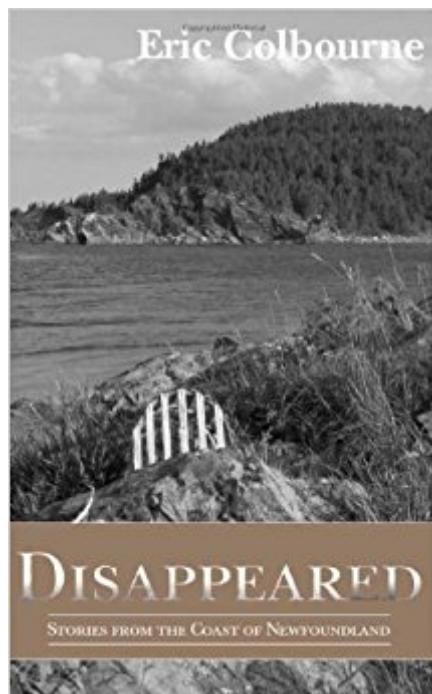


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Disappeared: Stories From The Coast Of Newfoundland



Synopsis

Eric Colbourne brings us a compilation of stories set in the period from the 1880s to the early 1960s before the precipitous decline of small coastal communities in Newfoundland. The stories are told without nostalgia but with the realism that comes from having grown up in a community and in a province before the age of television, medicare and modern transportation. "In Disappeared, Eric Colbourne takes us on a fascinating journey through the history, folklore, and custom of a Newfoundland island outport. His sweep is broad encompassing chapters on home remedies, schooling, tragedy and adventure, and the battle fronts of the First World War. What unites these pages is a love of place and people and the truly impressive craft of the writing." - Paul Butler, author of *Titanic Ashes*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this book knowing little about Newfoundland and lesser still about Lush's Bight. What I found within its pages is that the history of Newfoundland -- with its human hardships, wild weather, and heroic tales -- is similar to the history of many frontier places such as the American West or India's Rajasthan or the African bushlands, but with one key difference: those folks in Newfoundland had it tougher! I highly recommend you buy it as a travel book since it is a compact, easy read.

Colbourne's style of writing is direct, but emotive. The writer does not make judgements or express opinions about the stories, nor does he present Newfoundland's history with boring facts or academic assessments like a textbook, rather he tells the stories with warm and expressive descriptions that make you feel like you are hearing fireside tales from your grandfather or dinnertime gossip from your aunt. It's endearing. The book is composed of ten short stories which

chronicle the "pattern of life" that characterized the transition of Newfoundland from "radio to color television, from home medicine to the miracle of penicillin, and from dirt paths to paved roads." There are moments of levity when a well-wishing Aunt Bess uses turpentine to "purify" the moral health of her youngsters, or moments of tragedy when a father and son venture across an icy coastline in search of washed-up seals for food, and often moments of grandeur when Newfoundland's native sons venture into the outside world to serve aboard ships and work in mines and fight in The Great War. Death and disease were intimately familiar to each and every member of the community of Lush's Bight -- yet every story also seems to find a character or act or joke in which humanity always trumps hardship. In this way, Colbourne's book transcends its outward appearance as a history of Newfoundland alone. Near the end of the book, I found myself contemplating how any of us are able to continually exist in fierce, unfriendly places when faced with the unrelenting dangers of our environment. Even with modern medicine, airplanes, and the internet -- there's something more, something special about those "frontier people" of Lush's Bight that allowed them to profit from life's killer odds. Colbourne's hidden theme reminds me of William Faulkner's words from his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize in Literature, "I decline to accept the end of man. It is easy enough to say that man is immortal simply because he will endure ... I believe that man will not merely endure: he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance. The poet's, the writer's, duty is to write about these things." In "Disappeared," Colbourne accomplished this duty.***

A wonderful read on a day of travel that made me long to be heading to Newfoundland than where I was headed. The detail and language chosen by the author easily transports the reader to a time and place easily envisioned whether they have been there or not. For those familiar with out port life it conjures up memories of a simpler time where drinking tea from a saucer made it taste all the better. The diversity of each story urges the reader to continue onto the next anxious to see what interesting tale will be shared next. A very enjoyable read and one worth recommending.

good book

I purchased this is a birthday gift for my mother-in-law who is from Newfoundland and she loved it!

This is a collection of stories about a wonderful people who populated the isolated out ports of a

great maritime province. It reflects on a culture which has been for the most part destroyed as many of these unique villages have been abandoned due to reckless management of the ecosystems.

Very detailed and informative presentation of the rich life that once was Long Island, Newfoundland. A must have for anyone interested in the history of the Island.

I cannot rate it as only the cover downloaded (no content)

Mr. Colbourne is an evocative storyteller with a simple yet effective style. Although I have never visited Newfoundland, reading his stories gave me an idea of the place through its people, landscapes and traditions that made me feel as though I had experienced its essence. The Irish proverb he chose to include on the book's opening page "a story that is not told dies" sums up the overall feel of the book nicely - as I was reading I was reminded of my own relatives telling tales about the places they were from, with an enthusiasm that was contagious. It takes a gifted writer to inspire a feeling of nostalgia for a place one has never been - Mr. Colbourne has done that with this collection.

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