



## Flame and Ashes: The Great Fire Diary of Triffie Winsor

*Janet McNaughton*

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Eleven-year-old Triffie is the middle daughter of a well-to-do merchant. Triffie knows nothing about what it means to be poor — until the disastrous fire of 1892 burns down most of St. John's, Newfoundland, leaving Triffie's family and 15,000 others homeless.

The fire claimed everything but their underwear, Mother's best china . . . and Triffie's journal. With no other options, Triffie's family moves into a filthy warehouse while they attempt to rebuild their lives from the ground up.

The aftermath of the fire teaches Triffie a lot about what it means to survive. More importantly, she comes face to face with her own prejudices, and begins to develop a much greater appreciation for how the less fortunate live.

## Flame and Ashes: The Great Fire Diary of Triffie Winsor Details

Date : Published September 1st 2014 by Scholastic Canada

ISBN : 9781443124430

Author : Janet McNaughton

Format : Hardcover 193 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Cultural, Canada, Childrens, Middle Grade



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## **From Reader Review Flame and Ashes: The Great Fire Diary of Triffie Winsor for online ebook**

### **Sara says**

Okay. I feel like it would have worked better if her and her family were more affected instead of coming off better than most. It should have shown more of a struggle and not just kind of a la-de-da approach to the fire.

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### **Georgia says**

Full Review to Come!

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### **Meghan says**

Appreciated that the historical note was short and to the point, although the glossary was unnecessary.

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### **Ashley-Anne says**

not a bad story, but I never really got the feeling that this was any sort of real tragedy. no casualties, and just about everyone got back on their feet quite quickly after the fire.

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### **TJL says**

This stands out as a great example of this series.

I must admit, as I was reading this book I was doing a constant comparison to the Dear America diary for the Great Chicago Fire (Pringle Rose), and I was greatly, greatly pleased to see that this book succeeded where that one failed. In particular, I noticed two things done differently:

First and foremost, the subject of the fire is present throughout the book. I don't think it would be spoiling it to say that the fire happens, since that's the subject of the book- but the author took the fire, which happened in a single day, and brought the repercussions of the fire to light throughout the rest of the book.

Secondly, there is a fine balance between Triffie's personal family life and the historical event. In the Pringle Rose diary, the fire was shoved in to the very end in favor of developing Pringle's life/family drama; but here, Triffie's life and family are weaved in seamlessly with the fire and the fallout that comes as a result of it.

Between the two, this diary was much better written. Triffie's character development, as well as the development of the plot, was organic and satisfying. My only complaint is that here and there, there's just a

*touch* too much detail and dialogue to strain the belief that this is an actual diary. Only a touch, though; Triffie is portrayed as energetic and chatty, and so it's not totally out of the realm of possibility that she would relate a great deal of detail in her diary.

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### **Shanelle says**

Like all Dear Canada books, *Flames and Ashes* was yet another book that provided me with an interesting story, while teaching me more about Canada's history.

I didn't enjoy this book as much as some of the others in this series, however I'd still recommend it to anyone interested in learning more about Canada's history.

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### **Daphne says**

Was a bit slow at first, but it got much better by the end, and the characters grew a whole lot during the end of this book.

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### **Polly says**

Yawn. Triffie is an unpleasant brat for most of the book, and frankly, it could have been set almost anywhere in North America in the 19th century. Great fires were pretty common back then, and although that's very sad, it doesn't make for a wildly interesting read.

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### **Twyla says**

My favourite part was when everyone restarted the store and most of the things in their house were replaced or given back. The worst part was when the fire burnt the big mansion down. My favourite character was triffie because she was the one who decided to make a diary of the fire. Auryn 11 years old, 2015.

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### **Gennifer Miller says**

Triffie had a nice life before the fire, but I like her attitude after the fire much more.

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### **Rebecca Fehr says**

This book was interesting. I would have liked it more though, if all the action wasn't placed right at the beginning. Still, it was a good book. Just not super action packed.

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**Emma says**

Not the most interesting Dear Canada, but still a good insight into one of many great fires at the time. While the main character in Dear Canada novels is usually likeable, Triffie does not start out that way, which can make the book a little intolerable at first.

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**Sheilah Roberts says**

Really liked this one.

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**Jessie says**

Not one of my favourite Dear Canada books but still a good read.

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