



Into the Firestorm: A Novel of San Francisco, 1906

By Deborah Hopkinson

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“I believe I can just see you on the streets of that bright city.”

Gran's gone now, but her words live on with Nicholas Dray, almost twelve, as he makes his way from the hot cotton fields to that Queen of Cities: San Francisco. Nick's on his own for the first time, with nowhere to turn. Then he meets jaunty, talkative Pat Patterson, owner of the most beautiful store—and the friendliest golden dog—in all the city. And for the first time in months, Nick feels safe. Safe in San Francisco.

But the year is 1906, the month is April, and early one morning the walls begin to shake. The floor begins to buckle. And the earth opens up. A devastating earthquake and then raging firestorms ravage the city, and Nick is right in the middle of it all. But for a young boy who's got few ties and nothing to lose, what's the right choice: escape to safety or stay—at deadly risk—to help others?

From acclaimed author Deborah Hopkinson comes a suspenseful and carefully researched novel of the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire and of one boy's heroic fight to survive it.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8-The terror of the 1906 disaster is brought powerfully alive in this fast-paced tale. When 12-year-old Nick Dray's grandmother dies, he is placed in an orphanage. He runs away, leaving Texas for the bright lights of San Francisco. Once there, he talks his way into a job at a stationery store, which he guards while the owner is away on business. One morning, the boy is startled awake by the earthquake and decides he will try to save the man's most prized possessions, including his dog, Shake. Nick also helps his neighbors escape their badly damaged rooming house and leads them to the safety of Golden Gate Park. Readers will feel as if they're in the middle of the nonstop action. Descriptions of the rubble, fire, and chaos are vivid and detailed. The geography and history of the city are woven smoothly into the story, placing all of the action into context. Nick is a thoroughly developed protagonist, as are the supporting characters. There are also some thoughtful insights into the nature of catastrophes, such as Disaster like this, it's the poor who suffer the most.—Kristen Oravec, *Cuyahoga County Public Library, Strongsville, OH*

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From *Booklist*

Joining the spate of titles published in commemoration of the great earthquake's centenary, this engrossing tale takes Nicholas, a young Texas orphan newly arrived in San Francisco, on a heroic rescue mission through the largely uncontrolled fires that turned out to be more destructive than the quake itself. Falling in narrative and historical detail somewhere between Laurence Yep's *Earth Dragon Awakes* and William Lavender's *Aftershocks* (both 2006), this smoke-filled odyssey gives readers vivid glimpses of the disaster's scope, and, in Nicholas' encounters with his neighbors and other residents, wider insight into the range of human response to sudden catastrophe of any sort. Nicholas is an appealingly uncertain, unself-conscious protagonist, and his upward change of fortunes at the end seems well deserved. An afterword and a bibliography are appended. *John Peters*

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Review

“Engrossing.”—Booklist

“Based on eyewitness accounts, the tale brings to life an event young readers will find fascinating.”—Kirkus Reviews

“Middle graders in search of quick, entertaining historical fiction—ideal for book reports—should take a look.”—The Bulletin

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Margherita Pettit:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a publication your ability to survive enhance then having chance to endure than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading a new book, we give you this *Into the Firestorm: A Novel of San Francisco, 1906* book as basic and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

James Goldman:

The knowledge that you get from *Into the Firestorm: A Novel of San Francisco, 1906* is a more deep you excavating the information that hide in the words the more you get interested in reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to understand but *Into the Firestorm: A Novel of San Francisco, 1906* giving you thrill feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by means of anyone who read it because the author of this guide is well-known enough. That book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this *Into the Firestorm: A Novel of San Francisco, 1906* instantly.

James Drake:

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Clorinda Combs:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love *Into the Firestorm: A Novel of San Francisco, 1906*, it is possible to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout men. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its called reading friends.

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