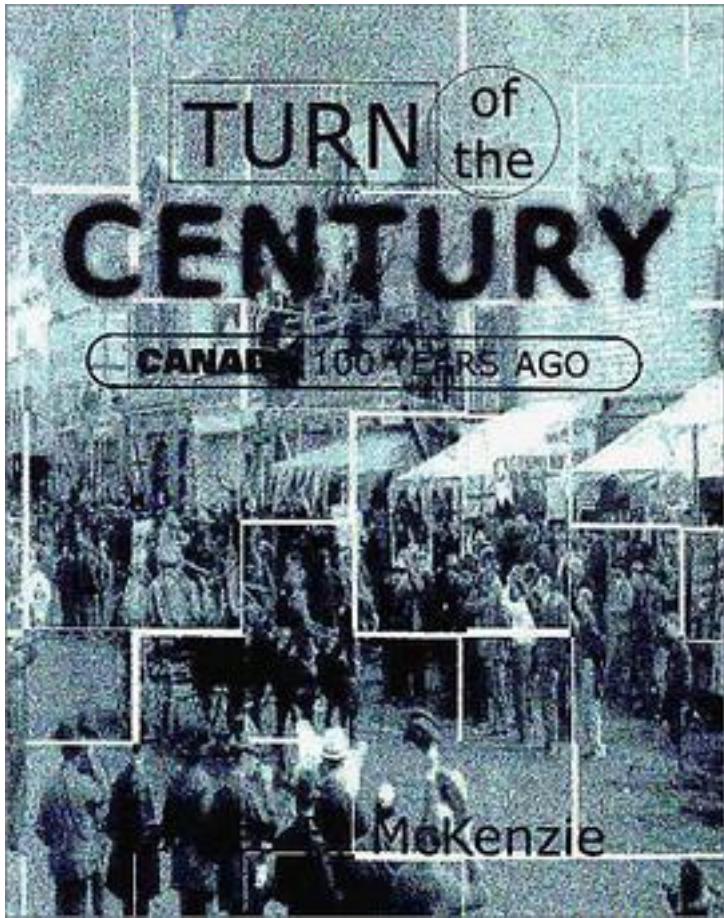


Turn of the Century



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著者:

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1
 He has just left an early breakfast meeting--very early--with three
 men he s never met before. He s never heard of the men i¼Œ in tact i¼Œ and he
 planned to blow off breakthst until his partner told him he shou d go i¼Œ
 because the men are important and potendal/y useful. He trusts his
 partner i¼Œ who used to work

for their agency. They are agents--all three of the men at breakfast--but agents who made it very clear that they preferred never to be called agents. He is already confusing and forgetting their names even though--the men's main purpose in coming to town--they strongly suggested--was to meet him and tell him they would love to be in business with him. That's the phrase these people always use: "We would love to be in business with you" said in a breathy, solemn, confidential way that makes it sound profound and salacious. He is walking up the Avenue of the Americas just south of Forty-seventh Street--now thinking of almost nothing but the morning sunlight pouring over from the right--making the line of proud, gray, dumb, boxy giants on the left--Safeway, Barney's, Time-Life, McGraw-Hill, News Corporation--prettier than they deserve to be. A pair of mounted police walking past him--about to make the turn--at Forty-seventh Street--snags his attention for an instant--the very--

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